

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 565  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
MICHELE HO'OPI'I FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2025.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 565, nominating Ms. Michele Ho'opi'i to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui Lāna'i expiring June 30, 2025.**

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The Councils determine whether to preserve in place or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burials site, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advise to the Department. With the exception of the Moloka'i Island Burial Council, the island burial councils consist of no more than nine members, of which six representatives shall represent a specific geographic area, and no more than three shall be representatives of development and large landowner interests. Ms. Ho'opi'i is seeking to represent the Wailuku geographic area.

Ms. Ho'opi'i currently lives in Waiehu, within the moku of Wailuku, that geographic area of which she is seeking to represent. Both of her parents are of Native Hawaiian blood, her father with familial and historical ties to Kahakuloa and mother with familial and historical ties to Waiehu. In fact, Ms. Ho'opi'i spends her evenings and weekends tending to her mother's family lo'i kalo in Waiehu.

She is a graduate of Baldwin High School, the Maui Community College, and the University of Phoenix. She has been an employee of Hawaiian Electric Company since 2006 as an Information Technology Desktop Specialist and in 2019, she became an Asset Data Operation Analyst. Her responsibilities include

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

tracking the installation, removal, and updating of utility field equipment for the islands of Maui, O‘ahu and Hawai‘i, utilizing GIS and SAP systems.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Ho‘opi‘i’s knowledge and unique lived perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui Lāna‘i Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2025.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.