

**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 566  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
SCOTT FISHER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06/30/2026.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 566, nominating Mr. Scott Fisher to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui Lāna'i expiring June 30, 2026.**

The Island Burial Councils (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 Councils consist of no more than nine members, of which no more than three representatives shall be representatives of development and large landowner interests. Mr. Fisher is seeking a large landowner seat.

Dr. Fisher was born and raised in Kula, Maui, is part Native Hawaiian, and has dedicated his life to the protection and stewardship of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. He is employed as the Director of 'Āina Stewardship for the statewide nonprofit land trust Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT), overseeing stewardship and restoration of natural, cultural and historic resources on HILT's eight preserves statewide. Dr. Fisher has restored native coastal ecosystems on HILT's preserves to protect iwi kupuna in place and stop coastal erosion. He works with descendants of areas in which HILT's preserves are located to protect iwi kupuna, reinter with appropriate protocols and descendant involvement in rare instances when iwi kupuna become exposed due to natural erosion, and has welcomed reinterment on HILT's preserves of iwi kupuna that have been exposed on other lands that don't offer permanent protection.

**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

Dr. Fisher is a paleoecologist and is currently pursuing post-doctoral studies examining Maui's tsunami history on HILT's Maui preserves to inform future modeling and resilience strategies. Dr. Fisher holds a Graduate Certificate in Ecological Restoration, a Ph.D. in Peace and Community Development Studies, a M.A. in Peace Studies, and a B.A. in Philosophy, with a concentration in Religious Studies. In addition to his educational background, and long land stewardship career with HILT, Dr. Fisher has also assisted other community organizations and agencies, such as developing and implementing an extensive oral history grant for the Maui Historical Society. Dr. Fisher is currently serving as the Chair of the Maui Lāna'i Islands Burial Council. As a member, Vice Chair, and now Chair, he has earned the respect of both his fellow burial council members and the general Maui Community.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Fisher's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui Lāna'i Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2026.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 566.



## HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Date: April 4, 2023  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224

**Re: SUPPORT – GM 566, nominating Dr. Scott Fisher to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lānaʻi, expiring June 30, 2026**

Aloha e Luna Hoʻomalua Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Hoʻomalua Fevella, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike.

Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 566, which, with your confirmation, would allow Dr. Scott Fisher to continue serving on the Island Burial Council for Maui and Lānaʻi.

Dr. Fisher's extensive experience in 'āina and cultural stewardship, education, and community service makes him an invaluable member to the Burial Council. We at HILT are privileged to have benefited from his service on our team for the last twenty years. He has always been a helpful resource in successfully navigating 'ohana, community, landowner, and government perspectives and actions. He allows our team to make informed decisions, backed with research, and always strives for what is pono in each step we take.

For these reasons, we urge the committee and Senate to confirm Dr. Fisher to continue his service.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

**'Olu Campbell**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**Lisa Grove**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Lānaʻi City, Hawai'i

**GM-566**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 2:26:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/4/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CYNTHIA REZENTES	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Scott's nomination based on personal knowledge of his commitment to the land and culture of Hawai`i. Scott has been a staunch employee of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) for many years and gives his all in providing positive guidance as to the lands of Maui that HILT manages/owns.

He takes stewardship of not only these physical lands but also the connection to the deep cultural aspects of the Hawaiian connection to the land and its history including connections to the people of the land.