

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

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224

In consideration of
Governor's Message 644, Submitting for Consideration to the Island Burial Council,
Island of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Cayla Crivello for a Term to Expire 06/30/2027.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Councils determine whether to preserve in place or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advice to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (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. Crivello is seeking to represent the Kona geographic area on the island of Hawai'i. **The Department supports this nomination.**

Ms. Cayla "La" Crivello resides on Hawaii Island where she has the opportunity to continuously build *pilina* (relationships and connections) with her ancestral homelands. Her genealogical ties to the Kona district serve as a driving force behind her work and the many roles she has taken on in the communities she serves and through her personal journey, she has developed a strong commitment to supporting others in reclaiming their own identities through the practice of *pilina 'āina* (relationships to land and community).

Ms. Crivello holds an educational background and professional experience in cultural landscape stewardship, historic preservation, geographic information science (GIS), and ecology. She currently serves on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. She has extensive knowledge of state and county council and commission processes, historic preservation practices, and collaborative landscape stewardship planning. Ms. Crivello has spent many 2026 Leg. Session

years learning from and working within the ancient and historic trail systems of Hawai'i Island and engaging with these pathways through both their tangible and intangible teachings. Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Crivello's connection to the district of Kona and prior experiences will inform the deliberations and decisions of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2027.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. Crivello's continued service.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR MESSAGE 644

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,
ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CAYLA CRIVELLO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-
30-2027.

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
(Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 14, 2026

1:00 PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS GM644**, which nominates Cayla Crivello to the Hawai‘i Island Burial Council (HIBC). Ms. Crivello applied through the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and is not an OHA nominee, however, OHA supports her appointment to the HIBC.

OHA is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.¹ As part of our constitutional and statutory mandate, OHA has been deeply involved with the protection of iwi kūpuna for decades. Under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E and its implementing administrative rules, OHA is tasked with specific kuleana including nominating moku candidates to serve on the island burial councils (IBCs) and consulting on sites that are important to Native Hawaiians.²

The IBCs are a critical mechanism through which the State fulfills its constitutional and public trust responsibilities to protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and iwi kūpuna.³ As decision-making bodies charged with making recommendations on the treatment and

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII, § 5.

² See HRS §§ 6E-3, 6E-43, 6E-43.5, 6E-43.6; HAR §§ 13-284-6(c), 13-275-6(c).

³ See Haw. Const. Art. XII, § 7.

preservation of burial sites, the councils play an essential role in ensuring that these sensitive matters are addressed with integrity. The timely appointment of qualified and responsible members is therefore essential to maintaining the councils' functionality, supporting consistent and informed decision-making, and providing reliable, ethical guidance that serves both the Native Hawaiian community and the broader public.

Cayla Crivello has honorably served as a member of the HIBC since 2021 and has been the Chair of the HIBC since August 2025, demonstrating responsible leadership and a commitment to the council's stator role and responsibilities. She also brings extensive hands-on experience in historic preservation and cultural resource management through her role as cultural liaison for the Hokuli'a Park and Cultural Sites Association, where she oversees the implementation of preservation and burial treatment plans, conducts site monitoring, ensures compliance with state historic preservation laws, and facilitates consultation and access for lineal descendants. This type of expertise coupled with practical experience and cultural knowledge is invaluable to the success of the IBCs.

OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **ADVISE AND CONSENT TO GM644.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-644

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 11:25:36 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/14/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O this nomination and look forward to the many ways that Ms. Crivello will contribute to the Council. With the importance of the work that the Burial Council takes on, I am certain that Ms. Crivello is a cultural asset who brings her perspective and ‘ike with her in order to ‘auamo the kuleana set forth with the proper lawena, steadfastness, and advocacy necessary.

Me ka mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i