



LATE

Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.
1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1481, HD2**
RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS

April 2, 2026

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 Time 9:25AM

STATEMENT FROM THE HFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc. is a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, comprised of 12 independent Board of Directors representing 13 mortuaries and 10 cemeteries that serve the largest majority of Hawaii's families. The HFCA is an independent association that acts in the best interest of its members and the community. The HFCA Board of Directors has reviewed and voted in support of HB1481, HD2.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Jay Morford, President for the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association, Inc. ("HFCA"). The HFCA is in SUPPORT of HB1481, HD2.

Amendment Regarding Scheduling for Disposition of Deceased Human Remains

Purpose:

To provide flexibility in scheduling of disposition of deceased human remains.

Current Regulation:

All dispositions of deceased human bodies (e.g., burials and cremations) require a permit from the Hawaii Department of Health prior to the final disposition of a decedent. This permit requires the applicant to include a specific date and location where the burial or cremation must occur. This permit also requires consent and signatures from a designated authorized representative over the disposition, or the majority of the "next of kin," which can sometimes require multiple individual family member's authorization for the final disposition.

Coordinating schedules and signatures from "next of kin" can often be challenging especially in periods of grief with little time for proper planning before permits must be submitted with a specific date prescribed for the disposition. Furthermore, changing the date on a permit requires an affidavit and failure to properly record the actual disposition date results in penalties and fines.



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These regulatory requirements can pose a significant burden on grieving families of the deceased as well as funeral homes, mortuaries, cemeteries, and crematoria when last minute circumstances create a change in the initial requested disposition date.

Proposed Amendment:

To address this challenge, the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association (HFCA) request an amendment that would allow a disposition to occur within 60 days of permit issuance and remove the requirement for a prescribed disposition date to be included in the permit application.

Proposed Language:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 531B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
- 3 and to read as follows:
- 4 "531B- Disposition of remains. (a) Any funeral
- 5 establishment, mortuary, cemetery, crematory, or hydrolysis
- 6 facility shall dispose of the remains of a dead human body no
- 7 later than sixty days from the later of either the date a permit has been issued
- 8 pursuant to section 338-23, or from the date of an affidavit for
- 9 amendment of the permit has been submitted. The department of
- 10 health shall not be required to include the specific disposition
- 11 date on the permit.
- 12 (b) The department of health may adopt rules pursuant to
- 13 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this section."
- 14 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.
- 15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

We would like to thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association
Board of Directors

HB-1481-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:48:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell Dodo	Testifying for Dodo Mortuary, Inc. & Crematory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Coordinating schedules and signatures from “next of kin” can often be challenging especially in periods of grief with little time for proper planning before permits must be submitted with a specific date prescribed for the disposition. The passage of HB1481 HD2 would allow funeral homes more flexibility when assisting families.

HB-1481-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 8:13:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricki S. Aoki	Testifying for Hosoi Garden Mortuary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Having only one day to do the disposition of remains puts us in precarious situations when changes need to be made. Flight cancellations, weather problems, power disruptions, family issues do happen. We would then need to make new arrangements, pull new documents, get notarizations, and possibly submit documents once again to authorities and governments. I am very much in favor of this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Ricki S. Aoki

Hosoi Garden Mortuary Senior Funeral Director and Vice President



LATE

BALLARD MORTUARY, INC.

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1481, HD2**

April 2, 2026

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 Time: 9:25AM

Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd. and Ballard Mortuary, Inc. operate 7 mortuaries and 3 Cemeteries throughout the State of Hawaii. We Support HB1481, HD2 for the reasons and comments that were submitted in the Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association's testimony.

The amendment would allow a disposition to occur within 60 days of permit issuance and will provide flexibility in scheduling of the disposition of deceased human remains.

Thank you for your consideration,

President

Jay Morford

LATE

HB-1481-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:51:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Comment how would this apply to "homeless" individuals and/or HPD or other law enforcement investigation. Shortage of personnel is a critical consideration before terminating the unknown remains. Families who lives outside the State of HI?

1481 HB RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS.

LATE

STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1481, HD2 FROM
MILILANI GROUP, INC. d.b.a. MILILANI MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY

TO: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Representative Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee Members

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 1481 "A Bill Relating to Human Remains"

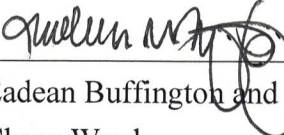
HEARING DATE: Tuesday April 7, 2026; 9:25 A.M.

This statement is made on behalf of Mililani Group, Inc., a company doing business as Mililani Memorial Park and Mortuary (hereafter called "Mililani"). Mililani **SUPPORTS** HB1481 "A Bill Relating to Human Remains" which advocates for a 60 day period in which to secure a permit for disposition and eliminates the current requirement for inclusion of a specific disposition date in the permit application.

Mililani has been engaged in the business of funeral service and cemetery operations for more than 50 years and during this period, we have been able to deliver our services in a professional and highly competent manner. The need to secure information and gather consents from various family members for the disposition permit has become more difficult to execute on a timely basis, given the nature of having to address families during periods of grief. Having to designate a specific disposition date creates an unnecessary burden for all involved; this amendment would be of benefit to both the family and the servicing funeral establishment by permitting a 60 day window in which to schedule the disposition.

FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, Mililani stands in strong support of the proposed HOUSE BILL 1481.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MILILANI GROUP, INC.



Eadean Buffington and
Chace Ward,
Operations Manager