

TESTIMONY
GM 380

TO : THE HONORABLE SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

FROM : LENINGRAD ELARIONOFF, APPLICANT

SUBJECT : NOMINATION TO THE HAWAII ISLAND BURIAL
COUNCIL

I was born and raised in Kau, Hawaii, and am of Russian, Hawaiian decent. After high school, I worked for the sugar plantation and then the satellite tracking station at South Point. A few years later, I attended Bethany College in Santa Cruz, California. When my savings ran out, I joined the Santa Cruz Police Department and continued my education on a part time bases.

In 1968, I returned to Hawaii and joined the Hawaii County Police Department and retired in 1994 as a Police Captain/District Commander. I ran for election and served as a Hawaii County Council member for three terms. For the past three and a half years, I have served as a member of the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

I wish to continue serving on the Burial Council because this is my home, my heritage, and I understand the culture. With this advantage, I am able to speak and represent the people and culture I have lived with all of my life.

As a Burial Council member, I feel that it is my duty to view disturbances to burial and cultural sites with a desire to attain the better of two worlds. It is my goal to find a way that present day developments and the past can coexist in a supportive manner.

My experience as a police officer has helped in dealing with matters involving the Burial Council. I have had the experience of approaching a situation and seeking questions that eventually clarify the issue to the extent that a decision can be made. I have learned that there is always more than one side to any story and one cannot approach the subject with pre conceived ideas.

It is my hope that when the Burial Council makes a decision, that the decision is lawful and fair to all concerned which include the people that are not here to speak for themselves.

During my years on the police force and then as a Hawaii County Council member, I have learned to read every document carefully and ask for clarification on matters that I find to be confusing or not clear. It is also my belief that if I volunteer to serve on a committee, then I have an obligation to make every effort to attend the meetings and be prepared for that meeting. To that end, I have not missed any Burial Council meetings in the past three and a half years and whenever a meeting had to be cancelled due to the lack of sufficient members being present, I was there.

There is no foreseeable reason why I may be ever be in a conflict of interest position and should that ever happen, I would not hesitate to make the conflict known.

Sincerely,

Leningrad Elarionoff

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Monday, February 16, 2009
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
**GOVERNOR MESSAGE 380 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE
ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
LENINGRAD ELARIONOFF**

It is with pleasure that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recommends Senate confirmation of the appointment of Leningrad Elarionoff to the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

The Island Burial Councils were established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to determine the preservation in place or relocation of previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites and to determine Hawaiian cultural and lineal descendancy claims for specific burials. State law requires that Island Burial Councils be established for Hawaii, Maui/Lanai, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai/Niihau islands, comprised of representatives from specific geographic regions and representatives of developer/large property owners.

Leningrad Elarionoff was nominated to serve as the Kohala District representative on the Hawaii Island Burial Council. If confirmed, Leningrad Elarionoff will serve until June 30, 2013.

Leningrad Elarionoff is an active retiree with an interest in all community affairs and statewide issues. His communication skills and diverse life experiences are invaluable to the council. The Department notes that Leningrad Elarionoff currently serves as a valued member of the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

The Department greatly appreciates your consideration of Leningrad Elarionoff and strongly recommends his confirmation to the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
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
GM 380
(END)