

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018
1:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 570
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NILES
SOARES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2018**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 570, nominating Mr. Niles Soares to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i expiring June 30, 2018.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Councils determine whether to preserve or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advice to the Department.

Mr. Soares, of part Native Hawaiian ancestry, was born and raised on the island of Moloka'i. He has resided on his birth island for 32 years and his family have been on Moloka'i for generations. In fact, his great grandparents were one of the first applicants to receive Hawaiian Homestead land in Kalama'ula and Ho'olehua. In addition, his great grandmother comes from Wailau, Moloka'i. He currently serves as the family lead genealogist and appreciates the importance of that role. Mr. Soares is a Field Associate with the Moloka'i/Maui Invasive Species Committee on Moloka'i. He would like to learn the legal and cultural protocol of working with iwi kupuna.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Soares knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Moloka'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2018.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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LAND
STATE PARKS

GM-570

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:58:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Testifying for Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT.