

# KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

## KŌMIKE KALAI‘ĀINA

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND WATER & LAND

February 23, 2021

SCR 206/SR 171

Establishing the Bural Sites Working Group to Examine the Burial Sites Program Under DLNR

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Kōmike Kalai‘āina submits testimony in SUPPORT with reservations for Senate Concurrent Resolution 206 and SR 171 which is requesting the William S Richardson School of Law to Establish the Burial Sites Working Group to Examine the Burial Sites Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD).

After some years observing the Senate confirmations of problematic members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources Board like Christopher Yuen, Suzanne Case, and Samuel "Olu" Gon III, I am not sure that this resolution would genuinely have the wanted effect because the issues at the DLNR are systemic and starts at the top. The failure of SHPD is the failure of the Board whose members this body keeps reappointing despite many substantial testimonies in opposition.

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Kōmike Kalai‘āina supports the intent of this measure and adds the following suggestions for amendments to strengthen this working group with more community input please include a member of Kia‘i Kaua‘ula to be chosen by that group, a member of Mālama Kakanilua chosen by that organization, and a member of Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i to be chosen by this Hawaiian nation. The Kia‘i Kaua‘ula Mālama Kakanilua and are on the frontlines of protecting iwi kupuna right now and Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i has had decades long standing and history on burial and repatriation issues.

Me ka oiai‘o,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Kōmike Kalai‘āina