
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO SEEK AND GATHER
INPUT ON REVENUE GENERATING INITIATIVES FROM ITS
BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) was
2 established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
3 amended, that was passed by Congress and signed into law by
4 President Warren G. Harding on July 9, 1921, to provide for the
5 rehabilitation of the native Hawaiian people through a
6 government-sponsored homesteading program; and
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8 WHEREAS, the mission of DHHL is to manage the Hawaiian Home
9 Lands trust effectively, to develop and deliver lands to native
10 Hawaiians, and to partner with others towards developing self-
11 sufficient and healthy communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the intent of the homesteading program is to
14 encourage the economic self-sufficiency of native Hawaiians
15 through the provision of land for residential, agricultural,
16 aquacultural, or pastoral use, and DHHL attempts to accomplish
17 this by giving native Hawaiians 99-year homestead leases at an
18 annual rental of \$1, with the option of extending these leases
19 for an aggregate term not to exceed 199 years; and
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21 WHEREAS, in addition to the direct benefits DHHL provides
22 to native Hawaiians, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act also
23 affords native Hawaiians additional benefits including financial
24 assistance through direct loans or loan guarantees for home
25 construction, replacement, or repair, and for the development of
26 farms and ranches; technical assistance to farmers and ranchers;
27 and the operation of water systems; and
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29 WHEREAS, thousands of native Hawaiians have waited numerous
30 years, some even waiting decades, for a land lease from DHHL,
31 which has been slowed by limited financial resources necessary
32 for the development of infrastructure such as roads, water
33 lines, and sewer lines, which are critical to the development of
34 lots that are ready for home construction by leaseholders; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, to address the loss of its single largest source
 3 of funding in 2015, namely a \$30 million annual appropriation as
 4 a result of a land settlement agreement with the State, DHHL has
 5 sought other means of financing homestead development including
 6 obtaining the authority to float millions of dollars in revenue
 7 bonds for development and establishing partnerships with other
 8 native Hawaiian trusts; and
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10 WHEREAS, despite the tremendous efforts of DHHL and the
 11 marked improvement in the number of residential lots developed
 12 for homestead use over the past several years, funding
 13 constraints continue to hinder land development; and
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15 WHEREAS, the development of homes and communities is
 16 critical to the economic self-sufficiency of native Hawaiians
 17 and DHHL must continue its efforts in finding additional sources
 18 of revenue to accomplish its development goals; and
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20 WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of DHHL, that is, the native
 21 Hawaiian people, may have a number of relevant ideas on how DHHL
 22 can obtain increased funding and eventually become financially
 23 self-sufficient and this informational source should be tapped
 24 by DHHL; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 27 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 28 of 2010, that DHHL is urged to seek and gather input on revenue
 29 generating initiatives from its beneficiaries; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes
 33 Commission.
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OFFERED BY: Karen Auwahi
Dele A. Belatti


