

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB 2525**

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

January 30, 2010

**PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN  
IN OPPOSITION TO**

**2525  
S. B. ~~2515~~; RELATING TO LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE STATE**

**Hearing date and time: Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 3:00 p.m.  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs**

Aloha Senator Hee, Chair, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. ~~2515~~<sup>2525</sup>, which, if adopted, would authorize the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Board of Land and Natural Resources to transfer title in fee simple to lessees of homestead lands.

I speak in opposition to this bill because this proposal would be a significant change in policy. The policy of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act is, "... to enable Native Hawaiians to return to their lands in order to fully support self-sufficiency for native Hawaiians and the self-determination of native Hawaiians in the administration of this Act, and the preservation of the values, traditions, and culture of native Hawaiians." The act currently prevents alienation of the fee title to the lands set aside under this Act so that these lands will always be held in trust for continued use by native Hawaiians in perpetuity.

Accordingly, this bill is premature without holding community meetings on this proposal to assure full consultation with the Native Hawaiian community and consideration of the views of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Additionally, I am concerned with any potential erosion of the corpus of Hawaiian Home Lands and the potential that others, exempt from being eligible for Hawaiian Home Lands, may seek to remove the HHCA on the basis that such lands are used for purposes other than that originally intended.

# THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

SB 2525 RELATING TO LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE STATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha my name is Lynn DeCoite and I a third generation homestead farmer on the island of Molokai. I raise sweet potatoes on Hawaiian Home Lands, the largest individually owned in the state of Hawaii and I support this bill. I believe that if there is available lands that can be sold or leased to native Hawaiians than so be it. It would allow me as well as others to invest in Hawaiian Lands to do what we were put here to do, be rehabilitated as the Hawaiian Homes Act so points out. As it stands, I cannot even secure a long term lease to farm, I just have a month, to month lease, which cannot allow me to make business loans or participate in federal programs because the lease is not secured.

I also believe the housing development amendments will help to make the waiting list go down and get more people back on the land.

For those reasons I support SB 2525

Mahalo,  
Lynn DeCoite, homestead farmer

WAIMEA HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P. O. Box 6753  
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743  
February 2, 2010

**M KANANI KAPUNIAI**  
*Pu'ukapu-Pastoral '90+*  
Director- **President**

**BETTY LAU**  
*Kuhio Village*  
Director – **Vice-President**

**MAXINE KAHAULELIO**  
*Pu'u Pulehu*  
Director – **Secretary**

**A HOPPY BROWN**  
*Pu'ukapu Pastoral '90+*  
Director – **Treasurer**

*Kamoku/WaikoloaNienie*  
Director

*Pauahi*  
Director

**ROBERT TERUKINA**  
*Kuhio Village*  
Director

**BERNARD ALANI, JR**  
*Pu'ukapu-Farm>'85*  
Director

**JOSEPH KEALOHA**  
*Pu'ukapu-Farm '85+*  
Director

**HENRY "SOLI" NIHEU**  
*Pu'ukapu-Farm '85+*  
Director

**TIARE FLORES**  
*Pu'ukapu-Pastoral <90*  
Director

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
*Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs*

FROM: M Kapuniai, President

RE: **SB2525**  
**RELATING TO LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE STATE**  
Authorizes the department of Hawaiian home lands and the board of land and natural resources to transfer title in fee simple to lessees of homestead lands.

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 3, 2010 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

We **CANNOT SUPPORT** this bill at this time; we have not had the time to review and discuss the "benefits of this opportunity" with our community, DHHL, nor the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process.

Phone: (808) 890-2311 (Res) 936-0157(Cell)  
Email: duke@sandwichisles.net

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:37 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** kamaki@att.blackberry.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2525 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2525

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kamaki Kanahele  
Organization: SCHHA  
Address: 1050 Queen St., Suite 200 Hon., Hi.  
Phone: 529-1629  
E-mail: [kamaki@att.blackberry.net](mailto:kamaki@att.blackberry.net)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

**Comments:**

The SCHHA opposes SB2525 and considers this bill and the sale of any trust lands, a dangerous precedence which may be instituted only after state-wide consultation with beneficiaries. None has occurred. The beneficiaries and the SCHHA have continuously provided ample opportunity for the DHHL to work with its constituents in order for DHHL to build support and develop partnership approaches i.e. the simple requirement of consultation, designed by DHHL has as yet to be practiced by the DHHL.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** soor001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2525 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2525

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Richard Soo  
Organization: SCHHA  
Address: 1050 Queen St., Suite 200 Hon., Hi.  
Phone: 529-1629  
E-mail: [soor001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:soor001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB 2525**  
**(END)**