
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO RELEASE PASTORAL
AND AGRICULTURAL LEASES TO ITS BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians have traditionally had close ties
2 to the land; and

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4 WHEREAS, after contact with the West:

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6 (1) Native Hawaiians' traditional ties to their lands were
7 disrupted; and

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9 (2) The size of the native Hawaiian population began to
10 decrease because of the introduction of new illnesses
11 and diseases to which native Hawaiians had not
12 previously been exposed;

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14 and

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16 WHEREAS, it was and continues to be widely believed that
17 one way to improve the condition of native Hawaiians is to
18 provide them with greater access to ancestral lands; and

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20 WHEREAS, as Hawaii's delegate to the United States
21 Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole spearheaded the
22 passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, designed to
23 create a rehabilitation program for the dwindling numbers of
24 native Hawaiians; and

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26 WHEREAS, in 1921, with the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes
27 Commission Act, 1920, the United States set aside approximately
28 200,000 acres of land to establish a permanent homeland for
29 native Hawaiians, who were a landless and "dying" people; and



1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, was
2 subsequently incorporated into the Hawaii State Constitution;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was
6 established by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, and is
7 headed by an executive board known as the Hawaiian Homes
8 Commission; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands owes a
11 fiduciary duty to its beneficiaries; and
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13 WHEREAS, it is essential that the beneficiaries of the
14 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands gain access to lands set aside
15 for them as expeditiously as possible; and
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17 WHEREAS, pastoral and agricultural leases are an important,
18 valuable, and viable use of Hawaiian Home Lands; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2011, that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to
23 release pastoral and agricultural leases to its beneficiaries;
24 and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
27 Lands submit to the Legislature, no later than 20 days prior to
28 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012, a report of its
29 activities and efforts with respect to the release of pastoral
30 and agricultural leases to its beneficiaries; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
34 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the Governor, the chairperson
35 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and the chairperson of the
36 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY:

Kaewalana

Richie Abovella

[Signature]

MAR 16 2011

