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ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

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COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ON

HB 1489, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

February 9, 2011

Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) recognizes and appreciates the intent of this measure to address and mitigate our state's growing homeless/houseless population, and specifically native Hawaiians. As proposed in this bill, implementation of this type of pilot program is problematic for several reasons. First, the mission of our department is return native Hawaiians (at 50% blood quantum or more) to the land. This would be difficult to implement without a reasonable method of verifying the blood quantum or beneficiary status of each participant in this "kanaka village" program. Also, this largely is a social service program, but there is no social service component or agency that will be involved. Finally, this measure does not currently authorize any appropriation, so resources allocated to this pilot would take away from other homestead developments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



Kānaka Council Moku o Keawe

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COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 09, 2011
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HB 1489 Relating to Kanaka Village On DHHL For Na Kanaka Homeless

Ano ai kakou,

My name is Kale Gumapac, Alaka'i for Kanaka Council Moku O Keawe and we strongly support HB 1489. I am a beneficiary on DHHL's waiting list since 1982 and born and raised on DHHL Lands in Waimanalo since 1951. I live in Puna on the Island of Hawai'i and I believe that I have life long experience to speak on this matter.

The idea of a self-sustainable Kanaka Village is not a novel idea. After all our ancestors lived with the understanding of malama kakou and we are finally beginning to understand the olelo noeau of "ka wa mahope" (facing the future is understanding what happened in the past) or are we? The practical value of history is film of the past that runs through the projector of today and on to the screen of tomorrow.

This pilot project should be the first of many on each island. We need to look at this project from the eyes of na kupuna with all of the resources from the past, present and future to build, maintain and sustain this Kanaka village. Our kupuna were intelligent and fascinating people who made use of every resource available to them. We should do the same

Malama aina,
Kale Gumapac, Alaka'i

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
by
Elmer Ka'ilikole Ka'ai

HB 1489 Relating to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and members of House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1489 which requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to develop a pilot program to establish a kanaka village for homeless native Hawaiians. I am writing as a Hawaiian home lands trust wait-list beneficiary, and the past Po'o of Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'opulapula.

I truly understand the merits behind this measure and will not argue the facts that majority of Hawai'i's homeless are native Hawaiian. However, I can not support this measure in its present form.

As a waitlist beneficiary, I am concerned that this "pilot" project will divert the limited resources of DHHL from developing and delivering lands to all native Hawaiians. I would support language that will "request the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands to work in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Housing Authority, the University of Hawaii and various private organization to development of pilot project plan to address the native Hawaiian homeless." The current language clearly requires that DHHL shall take on the entire burden regarding time and resources.

I hope my simple suggestion will help you address this difficult matter.