

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



LATE TESTIMONY

ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

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

HR 236/HCR 270, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO
ESTABLISH A GAMING TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS
OF ALLOWING GAMING AND ESTABLISHING CASINO OPERATIONS ON
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

March 30, 2011

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

While DHHL is eager to establish a consistent and sustainable cash flow to financially support our programs, and we are open to all possibilities, there are growing concerns among our beneficiaries with the prospect of gaming on our trust lands. The idea of gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands elicits mixed, yet strong reactions from our beneficiaries.

The make up of the task force implies that its focus would be statewide and for revenues earned for the state or general fund, not just on gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands and revenues for our trust. Also, a significant component of determining the feasibility on our lands is consultation with our beneficiaries. Finally, we believe that the department can have the discussion on whether gaming is feasible independent from this resolution, and we simply do not have the funding or human resources to establish and lead this task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.