

**SB 1290**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A  
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
IN SUPPORT OF  
**SB 1290, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920,  
AS AMENDED**

February 7, 2011

Chair Galuteria, Vice-Chair Ryan and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports SB 1290, as our ability to deliver homesteads and home ownership opportunities to beneficiaries is directly tied to our ability to guarantee mortgage loans.

As DHHL lands are inalienable, we are required to guarantee mortgage loans made for homes on Hawaiian Home Lands when lenders do not have a loan assurance program. The DHHL's current loan guarantees are approximately \$30 million of the current \$50 million ceiling, and we have approximately \$16.8 million in loans to be closed over the next six months.

As part of its housing strategy, the DHHL has partnered with local lenders on loan programs with complementing mortgage insurance to minimize the Department's guarantee obligations. However, there still exist loan programs that serve specific income level families, such as Habitat for Humanity, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and county programs here in Hawaii. The exponential

growth of both house construction and mortgage amounts of these programs will still require this ceiling adjustment. The increase in this ceiling will allow the Department to increase construction of affordable units and home ownership, thereby creating jobs, and infuse millions of dollars in Hawaii's local economy. This benefits the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
INTERIM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1290

February 7, 2011

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED

Senate Bill No. 1290 increases the limit the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is currently authorized to borrow or guarantee on loans from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 to cover DHHL's guarantee requirements for its housing programs.

The Department strongly supports this administration measure. Please note that pursuant to Article VII, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, DHHL is required to establish and maintain a reasonable reserve requirement (based upon program parameters) for each loan guaranteed under this section. DHHL must continue to fund and maintain a reasonable reserve in order to meet the State Constitutional requirements to administer a loan guaranty program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this bill.