

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



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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TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**SB 573 SD 2 HD 1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

April 6, 2011

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill, which appropriates funds that will enable our department to acquire necessary tools to effectively assess, determine, and track programmatic needs for 35,000 Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries.

The funds to be appropriated will be used for fee for services and equipment to create a dynamic system that allows us to build and manage a beneficiary database. This improved database is a critical tool in better understanding current "capacities" of beneficiaries and how best to address their needs. Without this tool, it will be difficult and costly for us to determine what kind of home ownership or land stewardship opportunities or programs best match the 25,000 native Hawaiians currently on our waitlists.

DHHL has long tried to address the question of what sum of funds from the legislature is sufficient to satisfy the state's responsibility to our department to develop homestead lots, provide homestead loans, sustain rehabilitation projects, and administer this homesteading

program as required by Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. This database tool is a means to determine an answer to this question and the appropriation proposed in SB 573 SD 2 HD 1 is the first step to reaching that objective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.