

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 HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SB 573 SD 2, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

March 16, 2011

Aloha Chair Hanohano, 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 \$1.5 million to be appropriated each year in the biennium 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. Ultimately, this tool could empower us to determine what sum is necessary for the department to develop homestead lots and loans, sustain rehabilitation projects, and support our administration and operating budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.