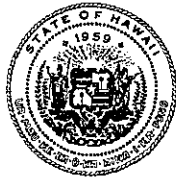


SCR 159

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

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ON

**SCR 159, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO RELEASE
PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL LEASES TO ITS BENEFICIARIES**

March 30, 2011

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this resolution and is currently in the process of assessing both our agricultural and pastoral homestead programs with the intent of revising, re-developing and advancing these programs. The Hawaiian Homes Commission took action last year to support this initiative to make more agricultural and pastoral homesteads available to our beneficiaries. We look forward to reporting on these efforts leading up to the opening of the 2012 legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 10:24 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR159 on 3/30/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony for HWN 3/30/2011 2:45:00 PM SCR159

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:
I support this bill

Leimomi M. Lum
Phone (808) 292-1365

Testimony

March 29, 2011

Mr. / Madam Chairperson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to express my concerns over the Hawaiian Homes Program.

My name is Leimomi Mo'okini Lum and I am three quarters Hawaiian. Many of you know me because of my work with the Mo'okini heiau and our annual Children's Day which has been celebrated for 32 years, and for years you have seen me in these hallways at one time or another looking for your support.

Today I am asking for your support in another area, I am talking about the process by which the Department of Hawaiian Homes handles the placement on the Hawaiian Homes List and the awarding of the pastoral and agricultural lands.

I initially applied to DHHL for a pasture lot in 1945, at the behest of my mother, who never had the opportunity to apply for "Hawaiian lands" in her lifetime.

After 21 year of waiting patiently for my turn on the DHHL list of applicants for pastoral lots, imagine my chagrin when I was told my file did not exist it was lost along with others.

With great trepidation I filed another application and reapplied in 1966, which is 45 years ago, and through the years I would check on my ranking on the award list without much success, the usual answer is you are still on the list but the ranking would fluctuate. I was told the information was internal to DHHL some kind of "highly classified, top secret" information not for public or applicants to access.

In 2005 the offering of lands in Honokaia were made available and I submitted a ranch plan, it was scored low by 2 of the 5 evaluators and one evaluator who scored my plan low said he was concerned about my age and to clarify his statement went on to say he meant he thought I lacked the energy and motivation to complete the ranch plan.

This has lead me to first filing an appeal to the decision with DHHL, and further taken this to the circuit court system to help to resolve what was perceived as an unfair evaluation by the panel, and I prevailed in the court system.

February 2005, we read about the second largest shopping center in the State being built on DHHL land the "good news for the more than 20,000 Native Hawaiians waiting for homestead awards. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands will earn more than \$140 million in rent over the next 65 years." What about the good news for us who have been waiting for decades to get our lands. I am 85 years old and although medical science has made amazing strides in prolonging the quality of life, I do

not believe I will be able to wait for an additional 65 years to realize my dream of a Hawaiian Homes award.

Today we hear persons arbitrarily use words like *Pono*, *Kukakuka*, and *Ho'oponopono* to sound Hawaiian but without understanding the history of the terms and their proper uses and the lifestyle they emanate from, they merely patronize the Hawaiian people.

A Plantation Mentality is pervasive in the Hawaiian Homes Commission in that the "Company" allows you to charge your groceries and supplies at the store but never pays you enough to pay off your bills, so you must always keep working. In much the same way, ranch lands are awarded to raise cattle but only in quantities where the number of cattle raised cannot even make a small profit, forcing the rancher and his family to work other full-time jobs to pay the ranch's and family's expenses. I overheard someone telling someone else "You don't do it for the money-it is a lifestyle." How is this *Pono*? The purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Act is to help Hawaiians get ahead not to keep them indentured to the DHHL. It cost money for fencing supplies and to supply water to the cattle and where does this come from? It will most likely come from family and friends and if you are lucky perhaps a bank or some other lending institution. Therefore you work to pay off the loan and hope that the land you were awarded can become profitable.

In closing, I understand that there are 300 acres for sale in Pu'ukapu and the asking price for the lease is \$600,000.00, the homesteader wants to make money instead of using the land for its original intended purpose, this parcel could be used to provide other awardees a chance to achieve their dream of Homesteading. I strongly urge the Hawaiian Homes Commission to look within and to get back to the awarding of lands that will enable the recipients to attain their lifelong hopes of sharing in the lands of their forbearers.

Mahalo A Nui Loa, A Hui Hou,Malama Pono Kakou