

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 4:14 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: publicpolicy@oha.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2090 on 2/8/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony HB2090 NH Bus Bid Pref revised HAW.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HAW 2/8/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2090

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sterling Wong
Organization: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
E-mail: publicpolicy@oha.org
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:



LATE TESTIMONY

HB2090
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN BUSINESSES
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 8, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB2090, which is intended to foster the development and growth of native Hawaiian-owned businesses. HB2090 provides a 5% bid preference for native Hawaiian-owned businesses certified by OHA and would require immediate notification to OHA of ownership change and reapplication.

The intent of this bill is consistent with our strategic priority of improving the economic self-sufficiency of Native Hawaiians. OHA has already taken steps to foster business opportunities and entrepreneurship. Currently, through Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF), OHA has administered in partnership with First Hawaiian Bank 192 business loans with an outstanding principal balance of \$2,803,910.48. These loans have helped many of our beneficiaries either expand their business or become successful entrepreneurs. At the same time, OHA has also sponsored tuition reimbursement for those of Native Hawaiian ancestry who complete the Kapiolani Community College entrepreneurship program.

Programs like the federal SBA 8A program have been extremely beneficial for Native Hawaiian businesses. However, bid preference programs at both the state and federal level have been the subject of a significant amount of litigation. We hope that any legal concerns related to this legislation have been thoroughly reviewed and considered.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.