

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A
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LATE

TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
IN SUPPORT OF

SB 2597, RELATING TO THE HAWAII LEGACY TRUST FUND

February 9, 2012

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports the intent of this bill that proposes the creation of the Hawaii Legacy Trust Fund to support conservation, reforestation of Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, sustainable food and energy production, affordable housing, and other programs. There is a natural partnership for DHHL and the Hawaii Legacy Trust Fund Advisory Board.

DHHL is currently restoring portions of our Humu`ula-Pi`ihonua lands in perpetuity to conserve these native forests and natural habitats for future generations. In doing so the Department is looking beyond housing and into a more holistic approach for communities and land management. These lands have the potential for serving as a sustainable native forest and land unit by simultaneously providing environmental, economic and social benefits to the trust and its beneficiaries, in perpetuity by linking traditional cultural knowledge and modern science.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.