



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 JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
IN SUPPORT OF

SB 2793 SD 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

February 24, 2012

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands strongly supports SB 2793 SD 1, which allows for the suspension of administrative rules for the purpose of awarding a lease to a native Hawaiian who has been on the waitlist for at least 20 years. This bill is part of the Governor's administrative package by request of our department.

As the department develops varied homestead products to immediately meet the current needs of its longest-waiting applicants, the ability to suspend the department's administrative rules can eliminate barriers that have prevented Hawaiian Home Lands applicants from receiving a homestead lease. Of the 21,151 residential applicants, 6,740 have been on the waiting list for at least 20 years. This measure targets nearly one-third of the native Hawaiians who are waiting for a lease and who may otherwise never be able to accept a lease award.

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The Senate Draft 1 adds a sunset provision to enable the Hawaiian Homes Commission to enact this policy as a pilot for five years. We are very supportive of this amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important measure.