



**HB251 HD1**  
**RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**  
House Committee on Health

February 13, 2013

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB251 HD1, which would reduce to \$1 the cost for copies of documents demonstrating Native Hawaiian ancestry, for purposes of enrolling with the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission (NHRC).

This bill would go a long way toward ensuring that the cost of acquiring documentation of Native Hawaiian ancestry will not be a barrier to accessing Native Hawaiian rights and benefits provided for by law. Moreover, **OHA anticipates that the proposed cost reduction will have a negligible impact on the State's General Fund.**

OHA strongly supports this effort to reduce the economic burden on individuals seeking to register with the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission—which was created by state law in 2011 to further Native Hawaiian self-governance efforts. OHA is also happy to see the proposed cost reduction is extended to individuals who need similar documentation to register for other Native Hawaiian programs created by federal or state law, such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Hawaiian Registry Program.

In 2003, the state enacted HRS § 10-19, requiring OHA to maintain a registry of all persons of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Currently, beneficiaries of OHA are required to register with OHA's Hawaiian Registry Program in order to access benefits, programs and services. Many of these registrants come to OHA because they need financial assistance with educational endeavors or other similar pursuits, and the high cost of obtaining documents is especially troubling when it is imposed on these individuals.

While most NHRC and OHA applicants do not need to purchase new documents from the Department of Health to verify their ancestry, for those that need to, the cost of copies can be prohibitive. For example, complex ancestry cases require the production of several different documents from different family members.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB251 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** HLTtestimony  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB251 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

**HB251**

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members, I Support COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLIC LAW 103-150, RECOGNIZING THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS RECONCILIATION AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN SELF-GOVERNANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION, REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS FOR HISTORICAL INJUSTICES, URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADVANCE RECONCILIATION EFFORTS WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO FURTHER THE SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS. mahalo, Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

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