

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

DATE: Friday, February 01, 2013

TIME: 9:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 866 RELATING TO SEWER SYSTEMS SERVICING ON HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Clarifies and confirms counties' ownership of and responsibility for certain existing sewer transmission lines and facilities servicing Hawaiian Home Lands. Requires the counties to accept dedication of and to own, operate, improve, maintain, and repair certain other sewer transmission lines and other sewerage facilities servicing Hawaiian home lands.

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee,

I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 866 RELATING TO SEWER SYSTEMS SERVICING ON HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

As a Hawaiian Home Land lessee I know that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands primary responsibility is to develop lands for residential, agricultural and pastoral use for native Hawaiians. To include the infrastructure and ancillary needs of these developments. However, DHHL is not staffed, equipped or funded to physically repair and maintain sewer systems, throughout the state, on a long-term basis.

It is the Counties responsibility to maintain sewer services, yet they are remiss in accepting, repairing and maintaining our sewer system. In the past, many of the old homesteads were built with cesspools. Due to environmental concerns, the EPA and Counties required a conversion to the public sewer system. These homesteaders were instructed to convert and pay for a **SECOND** sewer system, or face the consequences and possible lease termination.

Wai'anae Valley Homestead converted over twelve years ago. The average water/sewer bill increased by 300 percent. Homesteaders pay their water bills just like everyone else. And like most people elsewhere we want to work directly with the Counties, not DHHL, when we have sewer problems. We are still waiting for the County to accept full responsibility of our sewer and roads.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 866**.


Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai