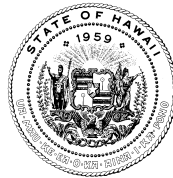


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805



TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS
IN SUPPORT OF

SCR 137/SR 98, REQUESTING THE COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO ASSEMBLE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES; INVESTIGATE SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND PRIVATE LAND FOR INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROJECTS; AND PREPARE A PLAN TO DEVELOP A DEMONSTRATION HOUSING PROJECT FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES THAT CAN SERVE AS A MODEL STATEWIDE.

April 4, 2013

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands supports the intent of SCR 137 and SR 98, which requests the formation of a working group to identify innovative housing solutions for homeless Native Hawaiian families.

We recognize that a number of our state's homeless and houseless population are beneficiaries of our trust, and we are currently collaborating with the Coordinator on Homelessness to identify ways to address these needs. We defer to the Coordinator on Homelessness on the feasibility and costs of completing the tasks requested in the resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.

LATE



SCR137 SD1 / SR98 SD1

REQUESTING THE COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS TO ASSEMBLE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES; INVESTIGATE SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND PRIVATE LAND FOR INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROJECTS; AND PREPARE A PLAN TO DEVELOP A DEMONSTRATION HOUSING PROJECT FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIAN FAMILIES THAT CAN SERVE AS A MODEL STATEWIDE.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2013

9:50 a.m.

Room 211

The Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE) committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers **comments** on SCR137 SD1 / SR98SB SD1, which requests the coordinator on homelessness to assemble a working group to identify solutions for homeless Native Hawaiian families.

The work requested in this resolution is in line with the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) draft plan to end homelessness in Hawai'i. Many of the partners listed in the resolution are either already part of the interagency council or would be readily welcome to any of the meetings.

Work in this area is difficult because the agencies are asked to do more with no additional resources and are expected to handle the disastrous effects from the cuts of mental health and substance abuse programs during the economic downturn.

Agencies like the Department of Hawaiian Homelands can speak directly to their work on developing a kauhale housing model.

OHA's most recent work in this area includes but is not limited to:

- Supporting Hawaiian Community Assets tremendous work in creating a financial foundation for homeless families.
- Creating \$900,000 in grant opportunities for housing.
- Providing long-term stable financial support to DHHL.
- Developing leveraged funding opportunities to increase reentry programs for pa'ahao.

Mahalo for shining a light on this issue and providing the opportunity to testify on this important measure.