



**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  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
IN SUPPORT OF

**HB 866 HD 2 SD 1, RELATING TO SEWER SYSTEMS SERVICING ON HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

March 25, 2014

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports HB 866 HD 2 SD 1, which clarifies and confirms the counties' ownership of and responsibility for certain existing sewer systems servicing Hawaiian Home Lands. This bill was part of the Governor's 2013 administrative package by request of our department.

Historically, the counties have accepted the sewer infrastructure and performed the necessary repairs and maintenance of the systems. Recently, certain counties have either not accepted portions of the infrastructure or have not performed needed repair and maintenance for the sewers. Since operating and maintaining sewer systems is a county function, the counties should continue to accept the sewer infrastructure and perform the required repair and maintenance of these systems. These costs rise with the age of these sewer systems, and systems like the one that services the Papakolea homestead were built as early as the 1930s.

This bill ensures the sufficient and consistent operation, improvement, maintenance, and repair of sewer systems servicing Hawaiian Home Lands. Since introduction of this measure last year, dialogues between the State and the City and County of Honolulu to clarify this matter have continued. If this measure is enacted into law, the matter is clarified and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands would then be better able to focus our effort at developing new homesteads for our beneficiaries still on the wait lists.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [apohi21@gmail.com](mailto:apohi21@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB866 on Mar 25, 2014 09:10AM\*  
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**HB866**

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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