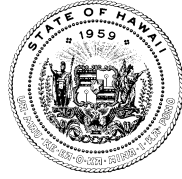


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES,  
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**HB 372 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 14, 2017

Aloha Chair Ing and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill that establishes a working group to address and provide findings and recommendations regarding issues that beneficiaries of DHHL on Hawaii island face relating to the financing and insuring of homes.

DHHL is fully committed to working collaboratively on the issues identified in this bill. There is one technical change we wanted to point out to the committee that we ask to be revised in the bill. The reference to “the director of the department of Hawaiian home lands, or the director’s designee” in the bill should be changed to the “chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the chairman’s designee.”

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

REP KANIELA ING, CHAIR

REP CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, VICE CHAIR

Bill Brown, President  
Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association (PHHLCA)  
PO BOX 4788, Hilo, HI 96720

Thursday, February 9, 2017  
8:30am, Conference Rm 312

**RE: SUPPORT WITH RESERVATION ON HB 372**

Aloha Kakou,

It is our honor to share our testimony on HB 372 before the honorable Kaniela Ing and Cedric Asuega Gates; we are a native Hawaiian community in the House District 2 region of this State with a historical value in growth for native Hawaiians in the Pana'ewa region furthermore as we are recognized by an Act of 1920 controlled by DHHL, DHHL a state agency has a prolific history in addressing most concerns of homesteaders like native Hawaiians wanting to reside on the homelands but often beneficiaries face economic distress to the purchasing of a home moreover some beneficiaries faced with environment concerns in making repairs with upgrades loans impossible for liability on secured indemnity, and finally most beneficiaries with permanent income lacks the ability in repairs due to commodity inflation, these unique challenges of native Hawaiians with DHHL has been a crux for beneficiaries.

PHHLCA **support this measure with reservation** for yes it does addresses the challenging needs of our residents on the Big Island however we would **suggest strongly** that two representative(s) each from the East and West of Big Island Hawaiian Homes Association to be part of the Department of Hawaiian home lands Hawaii island working group under **Section 2 c (d)** to be on the initial panel of discussion versus invitation (**Section 2 f (4 - 5)**) status to may be part of this working group. Keaukaha and Pana'ewa find this oversight by this committee and its introducers of this measure to be shortsighted by its proponent language to remedy our challenges when unique information beholds with the leaders of each homestead along with the conditions of our lands, buildings, and residents on the homestead, we strongly suggest an amendment to the measure would reflect a non-prejudicial rule for the beneficiaries to be part of this exploration in partnership with DHHL's inner Department of Hawaiian home lands Hawaii island working group.

Our native Hawaiian homestead residents most definitely need the attention of provisions in today's pecuniary inflated growth by this legislation; again we would hope that this committee would take notice that the leaders of each Big Island Hawaiian Home Lands Association could provide pertinent information that may steer this working group to benefit all people of Hawaii, mahalo for the opportunity with support with reservation before this committee on HB 372.

Bill Brown  
PHHLCA



**HB372**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**  
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

February 14, 2017

8:30 a.m.

Room 312

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** for HB372, which creates a working group to address and provide findings and recommendations regarding the issues faced by Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) beneficiaries on Hawai'i island in financing and insuring homes.

Over one hundred thousand acres, or half of the lands in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' (DHHL) inventory, are located on the island of Hawai'i. Significant challenges facing DHHL and HHCA beneficiaries today date back to World War II, when HHCA lands were used for military purposes rather than for homesteading purposes. Notably, there are five homesteads under the DHHL on Hawai'i island with lessees impacted by the presence of unexploded ordnances, due to military training exercises that were conducted during World War II—Kuhio Village, Lālāmilo, Pu'ukapu, Kawaihae and Maku'u. Homesteaders have a difficult time obtaining financing and insurance on these homesteads. Further, Keaukaha Hawaiian Homestead opened for residential lots in 1924 and was been adversely affected when Hilo Airport was subsequently built during World War II for military use; Keaukaha homesteaders face significant issues with financing and insurance due to impact zone designation and/or noise impact due to the airport's presence and expansion. Finally, Maku'u homesteaders are finding it difficult to obtain homeowners insurance due to volcanic activity in the area, in addition to unexploded ordnances mentioned earlier.

This measure has the laudable objective of assisting HHCA beneficiaries who face substantial challenges due to the presence of unexploded ordnances, proximity to Hilo Airport or other industrial uses, impacts from volcanic activity.

For the foregoing reasons, OHA urges your Committee to **PASS** HB372. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. We are a native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation, that seeks to promote native Hawaiian issues & protect native Hawaiian interests. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mkhan@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## omhtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** edithkawai@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM

### HB372

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edith Kawai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Members of the Committee: I strongly support HB 371 both as a member of a Hawaiian Homes ohana and as a member of the Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club for the following reasons: 1. It is wise to understand the needs of beneficiaries from the ground up; 2. Difficulties relating to insurance availability, lending and financing plague beneficiaries for reasons including unexploded ordnances, inability to afford repairs due to skyrocketing materials costs, external environmental hazards such as active volcanoes, noise pollution, high cost of living in Hawaii and inability to qualify for federal programs. I ask that the working group conclude its work by the beginning of the 2018 legislative session so as to enable the legislature to apply needed solutions to these long outstanding challenges.. Mahalo a nui loa, Edith Kawai 65-1234 Puu Opelu Road Kamuela, HI 96743 808 987-6288

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**gates2 - Thomas**

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**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** jflowers7733@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerry Wayne FlowersJr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**gates2 - Thomas**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mkkapuniai@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**gates2 - Thomas**

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**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** ds.pups08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Tanimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**gates2 - Thomas**

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**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** shane.nelsen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB372 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM\*

**HB372**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shane Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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