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SB961

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HWN on Feb 7, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

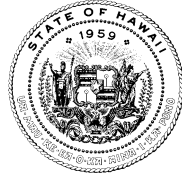
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

IN SUPPORT OF

SB 961 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

February 7, 2017

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands strongly supports this bill that amends the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to reduce the number of commissioners that are residents of the city and county of Honolulu and adds a commissioner from the island of Lanai. This bill is part of the Governor's administrative package by request of our department.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission is currently composed of nine members, and at least one member is a resident of each island on which the department has land with the exception of Lanai. The department acquired 50 acres on Lanai in 1999, and the department has awarded 29 leases on Lanai, and there are 66 applicants awaiting lease awards on Lanai. However, there is no provision for a member of the commission to be a resident of Lanai.

This proposal provides for a more direct connection for native Hawaiian beneficiaries on Lanai to the Hawaiian Homes Commission by requiring at least one member of the Commission be a resident of Lanai. This member will better understand the interests, needs, and concerns of beneficiaries as well as land management matters on Lanai.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.