

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
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 COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**HCR 151/HR 138 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO  
BUILD ALTERNATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR LESSEES**

March 26, 2019

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this resolution urging DHHL to build alternative housing options for lessees. DHHL requests that this measure be deferred while it undertakes the rulemaking process that would allow DHHL to develop, manage and enforce provisions for planned communities, multi-family complexes, and rental housing developed on Hawaiian Home Lands. Beneficiary consultations were held last year and an informational briefing and public hearing was recently conducted allowing for comments to be received through March 20.

DHHL requests that the 5<sup>th</sup> whereas clause be deleted or amended to more accurately reflect that the balance of federal funds remaining as of December 31, 2018 is \$15,231,799.87.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 9:15:56 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Boyd Ready	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives:

Please pass this resolution but also look at what law provides for DHHL's mission/powers/duties and amend it such that a 'resolution' to urge what is plainly needed is not necessary.

With respect,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

Date: March 26, 2019  
To: Legislative Committee  
From: Karl E. Baker  
Re: HCR 151

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support bill HCR 151. The Department of Hawaiian Homes must come up with a better and faster way to get beneficiaries on Hawaiian Home Lands. It is time to get rid of the waiting list as thousands of our people waiting for their whole life with no avail.

We must come up with other ways to accomplish this feat. Building single family homes is NOT the way to get this done. Doing things the same way is NOT going to change our current outcome. We MUST find other ways.

We must build more homes for our Kupuna, we must have rentals which can get our people ready for home ownership. We must think of building Condos if our properties are in urban areas as many of our people would like to live in town versus our country areas. We could really make these condos work for our Hawaiian people by having families and Kupuna working together. Having pre-schools for our Keiki and using our Kupuna who live in those buildings to assist with our teachers.

We must change our paradigm of how we look at problems so we can come up with beneficial solutions for our Lahui...

Thank you for time... Karl E. Baker

**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:12:48 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Baron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the Committee,

As one of the innumerable many very concerned and engaged members of the public -- who want to see Hawaii be a better home and a more authentically just, diligent, and caring society/government toward our Native Hawaiian host culture and first nation people, alongside all peoples here,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 151

This resolution urges the state's Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to provide alternative housing options for qualifying lessees. The options, such as kupuna and disabled housing to apartments and rent-to-own programs, will help to much better serve the diverse needs of beneficiaries.

Pivotaly, because Hawaii's cost of living is so high, many beneficiaries who receive a lease are unable to afford a down payment on a home. Alternative housing products will be much less expensive and more accessible to Native Hawaiians.

Please start to crucially prioritize and address solutions to fulfill the Broken Promise:

The Native Hawaiian beneficiaries' waiting list of over 20,000 -- with many kupuna tragically dying while waiting decades due to the inefficiencies, ineffectiveness, and systemic injustice toward the native Hawaiian beneficiaries, inherent in the current approaches by the state government (which in its entirety is responsible, in accord

Prince Kuhio's Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, to serve the beneficiaries of distribution) -- is starkly unconscionable...

... How truly tragic that, now on the cusp of a full Century after Prince Kuhio's empowering Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, only approximately 9,000 beneficiaries have ever received the land promised, while the other 27,000 heart-achingly wait on with no end in sight, and our kupuna pass away on the Waiting List, leaving in most cases no 50%-blood-quantum qualified successors among their precious ohana.

The faster and more heartfelt energy and urgency this Broken Promises gets resolved with the responsible input of the peoples' representatives, the faster it will also directly help to solve other major livelihood and real-life, kitchen table matters for families; issues that matter most for you representatives who the people interviewed and hired to wholeheartedly and diligently represent : such as Hawaii's housing and homelessness crises.

Thus, please **PASS** HCR 151.

Your doing so will in turn go a significant step toward making Hawaii a better and more pono place.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Christopher A. Baron,

Kuli'ou'ou, Honolulu, Oahu

**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 1:06:14 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Travis Agustin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am personally in support of HCR 151 and would urge the committee to advance this resolution. Alternative housing options should be made a priority to address the current challenges in providing housing on Hawaiian Home Lands.

From my perspective as an estate planning attorney in Hawaii, Kupuna housing and the associated family support services are in great demand in the State of Hawaii. Addressing the needs of the older generation as a priority will focus on the segment of the population that has been on the waitlist for many years. Addressing the needs of our Kupuna will also have an impact on the family members who are caring for their Kupuna.

Thank you for yor consideration.

**LATE**

**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 5:59:08 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kurt Kamikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the Committee,

In honor of Prince Jonah Kuhio and his legacy for helping Kanaka Maoli facing financial hardship, shameful homelessness and even displacement from Hawaii,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 151.

With your kokua, please **PASS** HCR 151.

As the face of multi-generational injustice, you are implored to be bold and courageous in taking a stand for righteousness in the land.

Mahalo, listen and obey your heart,

Kurt Kamikawa

POHAI RYAN

150 Hamakua Drive #824

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

pohaikaua@gmail.com

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**COMMENT HCR 151**

Chair Representative Ryan Yamane  
COMMITTEE ON WATER LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee Hearing Room 325 9:30am March 27, 2019

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane,

I respectfully submit this as written comment leaning in non-support of HCR 151 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO BUILD ALTERNATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR LESSEES.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands already has the authority to provide alternative housing options and has done so in the past. This resolution states what is already being done, has been done and will continue in the future what is already allowed; *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that alternative housing options should include but not be limited to single family, multi family, plantation, farm, rental, kupuna, and disabled housing, as well as apartments and rent-to-own programs; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to alternative housing options, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands should include community centers, wellness centers, commercial centers, and industrial centers in its development plans;*

A more effective message by the legislature would be to urge more commercial activity with appropriate market rate rent payments and to evaluate existing commercial leases to determine if DHHL is receiving fair market rentals and to find ways to expand commercial zoned areas to increase badly needed income for the department.

DHHL has already provide the state "housing options" in this resolution. Some examples of existing programs/projects through DHHL are;

- Kamakana Alii Shopping center is thriving and serves as a community focal point for Kapolei.
- Kapolei Hoolimalima Rent -with-option to own gained the attention of the National Association of Home Builders.
- Disposition of renewable energy projects TMK 9-1-013:038 98 acres and TMK 9-1-013:40 49 acres in Kalaeloa.
- Disposition of renewable energy projects TMK 1-9-001:003 15,620 acres in Kahikinui
- Notice for bid IFB-19-HHL-009 Hoolehua Veteran and Homestead resident's center.
- Currently regional plans being worked on: Kealakehe-Laiopua Regional Plan Update.
- Molokai Regional Plan 2019.



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DHHL already offers rent to own options and I agree that more should be provided because it is a practical and realistic option for homesteaders. It should be assumed that no matter who serves as DHHL Chair, that person will be expected to continue providing the already executed types of housing options. Many people are unaware that because DHHL Kupuna Housing Waimanalo received federal funding support it also qualifies any elder person to live in the DHHL Kupuna housing. DHHL's specific mission and narrow beneficiary pool requires more than usual due diligence before accepting financing. DHHL Commissioners and Chair are responsible to make sure attractive funding will not harm the Trust. Not all financing is created equally, though financing may be available for housing development it doesn't mean that it is the best suited for DHHL.

With this said, while I agree more homes need to be built quickly, I also know that all forms mentioned in this resolution is already being done or has been done and probably will be done again in the future. The title of this resolution also implies that it is just for housing options, but it closes with comment that includes commercial and industrial centers.

**If HCR 151 passes it should not be construed as a "free for all" for financing DHHL residential or other leasehold properties and should never include the value of the land in determining financing which could eventually jeopardize the Trust lands to a forced fee-simple conversion in the future. Especially important is for DHHL to continue to offer rent-to-own, kupuna housing, rental units, and to explore building a new high-density multi-family building in the DHHL property in Moilili for the urban Hawaiian who chooses not to be in a single-family home.**

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**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:34:50 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Nanod-Sitch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the Committee,

As a wahine kanaka 'oiwi o keia 'aina o Hawai'i (Hawaiian daughter of this land of my ancestors and people, Hawai'i), I am but one among the lehulehu (multitudes) of kanaka greatly concerned and truly disheartened by the systemic injustice which prevents our people from thriving here in our own home o Hawai'i nei. In particular today, I am writing with regards to Hawaiian Homelands and and the broken promise of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which has prevented thousands of our people from receiving and living upon the 'aina (land) designated for our benefit and well being. I will always remember sitting with my 'ohana in Kane'ohe just weeks after my Hawaiian Grandfather passed away, when the family received a letter in the mail informing Grandpa that he had received his homestead...finally.

I am testifying in **SUPPORT of HCR 151.**

This resolution urges the state's Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to provide alternative housing options for qualifying lessees. The options, such as kupuna and disabled housing to apartments and rent-to-own programs, will help to much better serve the diverse needs of beneficiaries.

Pivotaly, because Hawaii's cost of living is so high, many beneficiaries who receive a lease are unable to afford a down payment on a home. Alternative housing products will be much less expensive and more accessible to Native Hawaiians.

Please start to crucially prioritize and address solutions to fulfill the Broken Promise:

The Native Hawaiian beneficiaries' waiting list of over 20,000 -- with many kupuna tragically dying while waiting decades due to the inefficiencies, ineffectiveness, and systemic injustice toward the native Hawaiian beneficiaries, inherent in the current approaches by the state government (which in its entirety is responsible, in accord Prince Kuhio's Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, to serve the beneficiaries of distribution) -- is starkly unconscionable...

... How truly tragic that, now on the cusp of a full century after Prince Kuhio's Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, only approximately 9,000 beneficiaries have ever

**LATE**

received the land promised, while the other 27,000 heart-achingly wait on with no end in sight, and our kupuna pass away on the Waiting List, leaving in most cases no 50%-blood-quantum qualified successors among their precious ohana.

Please **PASS** HCR 151.

Your doing so will help address a long time and still very present problem. It will be a significant step towards the heart and vision of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole who firmly believed (along with the majority of our kupuna) that the health and well being of our people is essentially tied to the 'aina that ke Akua entrusted us to steward. Having more Hawaiians living on their 'aina will not only benefit kanaka but will help bring pono and greater health to our communities and to all of Hawaii.

Mahalo no kou ho'olohe 'ana mai a ke Akua pu,

Amber C.K. Moanike'ala Nanod-Sitch

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**HCR-151**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 8:32:32 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/27/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION!**