

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO IMPROVE ACCESS
TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS AND OTHER TRUST ASSETS TO ITS NATIVE
HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Hawaiian
2 Homes Commission Act in 1921, which was authored by Prince Kuhio
3 Kalanianaʻole, and which dedicated 203,000 acres of land in
4 Hawaii to benefit native Hawaiians; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Act was, and is, to restore the
7 cultural link between native Hawaiians and the land and to
8 provide native Hawaiians the stability, financial equity, and
9 economic self-sufficiency that comes from land and home
10 ownership; and
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12 WHEREAS, since the Act was signed into law almost one
13 hundred years ago, fewer than one hundred thousand homesteads
14 have been resettled and nearly twenty-eight thousand
15 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist; and
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17 WHEREAS, for the future of native Hawaiians and their well-
18 being, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands must fulfill its
19 purpose by providing housing and information on housing to its
20 native Hawaiian beneficiaries; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
23 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
24 Hawaiian Homes Commission is urged to take the following actions
25 in order to improve access to Hawaiian home lands and other
26 trust assets to its native Hawaiian beneficiaries:
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28 (1) Work with beneficiaries and beneficiary organizations
29 to maximize the utilization of trust lands and assets
30 for the benefit of homestead communities, homestead
31 organizations, and beneficiary owned and controlled
32 entities, including but not limited to leases of
33 homestead lands and licenses or operating agreements
34 related to the management of homestead assets;
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- 1 (2) Consult beneficiaries in person or via mail, email,
2 social media, or specific notification provided to all
3 beneficiary organizations prior to any disposition of
4 Hawaiian home lands or any improvements including
5 short or long term easements;
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- 7 (3) Refrain from establishing any additional criteria for
8 entering into a lease for Hawaiian home lands without
9 notifying beneficiaries through beneficiary
10 consultation, unless otherwise determined through the
11 promulgation of federal regulations;
12
- 13 (4) For public or mercantile purpose, grant a license or
14 enter into a general lease, unless it conducts
15 beneficiary consultation;
16
- 17 (5) Notify beneficiaries through beneficiary consultation
18 of any interest or other earnings that may be credited
19 to and deposited into the Hawaiian Home Operating Fund
20 or Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund;
21
- 22 (6) Provide quarterly reports to the Legislature and
23 beneficiaries that includes data on the inventory of
24 formerly leased properties and disposition status of
25 homestead properties and improvements under the
26 control of the Department;
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- 28 (7) Post and maintain the listing of the formerly leased
29 properties on its website and conduct auctions of
30 properties to the waitlist at least twice per year;
31 and
32
- 33 (8) Negotiate with homestead association governed water
34 agencies to maintain water systems, including water
35 billing, prior to other service providers; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
38 Lands is requested to submit a report of its findings and
39 recommendations regarding its efforts to improve beneficiary
40 access to Hawaiian home lands and other trust assets, including
41 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than



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1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2021; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
6 Homes Commission.

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OFFERED BY:



J. Kalani Egboh



Michelle A. Tedani

