
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION 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

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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, only approximately ten thousand homesteads
14 have been resettled and nearly twenty-eight thousand
15 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist; and

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17 WHEREAS, SMS Research & Marketing Services completed the
18 2019 Hawaii Housing Planning Study, which found that of the
19 native Hawaiian households surveyed, eleven percent were living
20 on Hawaiian homestead land (12,755 households) in 2019, similar
21 to 2016; and

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23 WHEREAS, among native Hawaiian households, twenty percent
24 had at least one member on the waitlist to receive a Department
25 of Hawaiian Home Lands award (23,883 households) on which they
26 intended to reside and of those households, only about three-
27 quarters (seventy-three percent) were sure that they intend to
28 have a house on that land; and

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30 WHEREAS, an additional 21,399 native Hawaiian households
31 stated that they have a household member eligible to apply for a
32 Hawaiian home lands lease but were not yet a leaseholder nor an
33 applicant; and



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WHEREAS, for the future of native Hawaiians and their well-being, the Hawaiian Homes Commission must fulfill its purpose by providing housing and information on housing to its native Hawaiian beneficiaries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Hawaiian Homes Commission is urged to take the following actions in order to improve access to Hawaiian home lands and other trust assets to its native Hawaiian beneficiaries:

- (1) Work with beneficiaries and beneficiary organizations to maximize the utilization of trust lands and assets for the benefit of homestead communities, homestead organizations, and beneficiary owned and controlled entities, including but not limited to leases of homestead lands and licenses or operating agreements related to the management of homestead assets;
- (2) Consult beneficiaries in person or via mail, email, social media, or specific notification provided to all beneficiary organizations prior to any disposition of Hawaiian home lands or any improvements including short or long term easements;
- (3) Refrain from establishing any additional criteria for entering into a lease for Hawaiian home lands without notifying beneficiaries through beneficiary consultation, unless otherwise determined through the promulgation of federal regulations;
- (4) For public or mercantile purpose, grant a license or enter into a general lease, unless it conducts beneficiary consultation;
- (5) Notify beneficiaries through beneficiary consultation of any interest or other earnings that may be credited to and deposited into the Hawaiian Home Operating Fund or Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund;



- 1 (6) Provide quarterly reports to the Legislature and
2 beneficiaries that includes data on the inventory of
3 formerly leased properties and disposition status of
4 homestead properties and improvements under the
5 control of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands;
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- 7 (7) Post and maintain the listing of the formerly leased
8 properties on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands'
9 website and conduct auctions of properties to the
10 waitlist at least twice per year; and
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- 12 (8) Negotiate with homestead association governed water
13 agencies to maintain water systems, including water
14 billing, prior to other service providers; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Homes Commission
17 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
18 recommendations regarding its efforts to improve beneficiary
19 access to Hawaiian home lands and other trust assets, including
20 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
21 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
22 2021; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
26 Homes Commission.

