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STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND HOUSING  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 7, 2020 AT 11:00AM IN CR 325

**HB 2208 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 6, 2020

Aloha Chair Yamane, Chair Brower, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2208. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for the acquisition of land to be developed by DHHL for affordable housing units. DHHL supports this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

The Oahu Island Plan, which was adopted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in July 2014 after conducting beneficiary consultation, provides overarching guidance and recommendations for appropriate land uses at the regional level and examines infrastructure needs and opportunities from an island wide perspective, gauges beneficiary wants and needs, proposes areas for homesteading and non-homesteading uses, estimates costs for on- and off-site infrastructure, and based on these findings, identifies priority areas for homestead development, community use and income generation. Oahu has the largest demand for homesteading and only 4% of DHHL's landholdings. In light of this land shortage on Oahu, one of the recommendations of the Oahu Island Plan is to acquire new lands for homesteading. This bill would provide funding for the acquisition of land in East Oahu where DHHL currently has no landholdings to develop affordable housing units.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
and HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

For hearing Friday, February 7, 2020

Re: HB 2208 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN  
HOMELANDS.

Appropriates funds to DHHL for the acquisition of land to be developed by  
DHHL for affordable housing units.

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 set aside 203,500 acres of public lands in the Territory of Hawaii exclusively for Hawaiians with at least 50% native blood quantum to be given leases for land parcels to build homes or have pastures for livestock. Since that time there have occasionally been land swaps between The Department of Hawaiian Homelands and other government agencies where both parties to the swap could more effectively use the lands for which they traded.

It would be unprecedented, probably illegal, and certainly immoral for State government taxpayer dollars taken from people of all races to be used to purchase land specifically to hand over to DHHL for the exclusive benefit of a subgroup of a particular racial group. It's bad enough that we have dozens of racially segregated ghettos scattered around our islands. We don't need to be creating new ones with tax dollars from the general fund.

There is one State agency which has hoarded more than \$600 Million in assets which it believes it is authorized to spend on racially exclusionary projects. If the bad concept in this bill somehow gets enacted, the legislature should first amend this bill to require that all the money for purchasing the land should come from the assets of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs rather than from the general fund.

**HB-2208**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:02:05 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I would like to offer the following comment on HB2208. I would like the term "affordable housing" be defined by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands in this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.