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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON JUNE 25, 2020 AT 12:32PM IN CR 016

**SR 129 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO
CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS AND PROVIDE DATA ON THE NUMBER OF
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE
APPLIED FOR AND NEED HOUSING IN EACH COUNTY, BY INCOME
CLASSIFICATION AND UNIT TYPE**

June 23, 2020

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this resolution requesting DHHL conduct an analysis and provide data on DHHL beneficiaries. DHHL appreciates the motivation behind this resolution, but believes the resolution is unnecessary because DHHL conducts beneficiary studies of applicants and lessees approximately every five years. DHHL recently finalized a contract for a beneficiary survey with SMS Research & Marketing Services (SMS), who completed the prior beneficiary studies for DHHL as well as the 2019 Hawaii Housing Planning Study. This resolution has already been shared with SMS as work has just begun to prepare the survey with the goal of completing the survey by the end of the year.

DHHL would like to note the following issues for consideration by this Committee. First, the third whereas clause references that “fewer than one hundred thousand homesteads have been resettled.” DHHL is unsure if the author intended to note that fewer than ten thousand homesteads have been resettled. In addition, the 2019 Hawaii Housing Planning Study includes a section on Housing and Native Hawaiians and while the definition of a Native Hawaiian household is broader than the definition of native Hawaiian as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), there is some information specific to native Hawaiians as defined in the HHCA in the study. The study provides the following information: “Of the Native Hawaiian households surveyed, 11 percent were living on Hawaiian Homestead Land (12,755 households) in 2019, similar to 2016. Also, among Native Hawaiian households, 20 percent had at least one member on the waitlist to receive a DHHL award (23,883 households) on which they intended to reside. Of those households, only about three-quarters (73.0%) were sure that they intend to have a house on that land. An additional 21,399 Native Hawaiian households stated that they have a household member eligible to apply for a Hawaiian Home Lands lease but were not yet a leaseholder nor an applicant.”

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

SR-129

Submitted on: 6/22/2020 4:55:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:32:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

The Executive Committee of the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus testifies in support of SR129, Requesting the DHHL to conduct an analysis and provide data on the number of DHHL beneficiaries who have applied for and need housing in each county, by income classification, and unit type.

Such information would be helpful in ascertaining whether current resources are sufficient to positively result in sufficient homes to meet the needs of beneficiaries.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Brown Kawamoto, Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus



HAWAI'I APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed

Supporting SR129 – Requesting DHHL to provide data on housing needs and income classification for DHHL beneficiaries in each county

Senate Committee on Housing

Thursday, June 25th, 2020, 12:32 PM, conference room 016

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **support for SR 129**, which will provide valuable insight into the needs of Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) beneficiaries by location and income.

Detailed data on housing needs is key to designing good policy that can address those needs and track progress over time. The first critical step to progress is to measure current conditions. In the context of providing housing for DHHL beneficiaries, understanding the income levels of beneficiaries and their housing needs is an important first step to measuring the resources and strategies required to address the problem.

SR129 is an important step in ensuring that the housing needs of Native Hawaiians are met.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SR-129

Submitted on: 6/23/2020 3:27:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:32:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SR-129

Submitted on: 6/24/2020 10:08:03 AM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:32:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Mai!

My name is trinette Furtado and I am a Kanaka from Mauinuiakama.

I strongly support this proposal and urge you to support and pass this important measure that would give a better picture of the continuing need of our people, for land and homes that should be much faster in materializing.

Please consider the vast numbers of Kanaka that have already passed on, waiting for their opportunity to live, love and grow on Hawaiian soil they have kuleana to and for. We ALL deserve to know how many people are stil in need so that we may swiftly and efficiently address that.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

Trinette Furtado

Kula, Mauinuiakama

SR-129

Submitted on: 6/25/2020 8:59:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:32:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Lauifi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This would be a good thing as we need to actually see the numbers behind the issues.

SR-129

Submitted on: 6/25/2020 11:36:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:32:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandy-Alia Serikaku	Individual	Support	No

Comments: