

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of
S.B. 1322
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

The HHFDC opposes S.B. 1322, which places the DHHL Chairperson on the HHFDC Board. Not knowing the intent of the bill, we believe that the current collaboration between HHFDC and DHHL on areas of mutual interest and benefit is far more productive. HHFDC has partnered with DHHL on the development of water infrastructure to support housing development in Lahaina, Maui and North Kona, Hawaii. HHFDC is providing \$10 million in DURF funds for a Honokowai well to facilitate housing development by DHHL and HHFDC in Leiali'i, Maui.

HHFDC is also partnering with DHHL for the development of North Kona wells (Keopu Well – Well no. 4 and/or Ota Well) that will benefit their project in the Villages of La'i'opua. HHFDC also regularly collaborates with DHHL on the Hawaii Housing Planning Study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
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**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SB 1322, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

February 16, 2021

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Chang, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1322, which designates a seat for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) on the board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

The mission of DHHL is to manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust effectively and to develop and deliver lands to native Hawaiians. HHFDC is tasked with developing and financing low- and moderate-income housing projects and administering homeownership programs. There are many examples of collaboration between DHHL and HHFDC and allowing the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee to serve as an ex officio voting member of the HHFDC similar to the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Director of Finance or their designated representatives would allow for greater advocacy for beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



SB1322

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hale Noho

Pepeluali 16, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1322, which establishes a seat for the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) or their representative, on the Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and HHFDC have similar missions insofar as they relate to the development of housing opportunities, for native Hawaiians and for other state residents. Accordingly, both agencies currently collaborate on multiple projects to achieve their shared housing-related goals. For example, HHFDC has specifically partnered with DHHL on the development of water infrastructure to support housing development in Lahaina, Maui, and North Kona, Hawai‘i. In addition, HHFDC also provides \$10 million in Development Unit Revolving Fund monies for a Honokōwai well to facilitate housing development with DHHL and HHFDC in Leiali‘i, Maui.

This measure may further enhance the partnerships and collaboration between HHFDC and DHHL. As a voting member of the HHFDC Board, the HHC Chairperson can better advocate for DHHL’s beneficiaries in the Board’s decision making process, and ensure that both agencies remain aligned in their partnerships and joint initiatives. The HHC Chairperson can also bring new perspectives and ideas developed through the DHHL’s activities and experiences, to the HHFDC Board’s deliberations.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB1322. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



MUTUAL HOUSING
ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

"Building our communities with respect, integrity, and aloha..."

Kekaulike Courtyards ♦ Ko'oloa'ula ♦ Lihu'e Court Townhomes ♦ Palolo Homes

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
and the Members of Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
and the Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Chang and Committee Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 1322 - Relating to Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corp.

The Mutual Housing Association of Hawai'i, Inc. ("Mutual Housing") opposes the provisions in Senate Bill 1322, which attempts to reassign one of the public member seats on the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation ("HHFDC") board of directors with the chairperson of Hawaiian homes commission or their designated representative.

We feel that the HHFDC is functioning very well as the State agency charged with financing and facilitating low-income housing development. The existing HHFDC board composition includes qualified members of the public that have knowledge and expertise in the public or private financing and development of affordable housing.

As a practitioner in the development and management of affordable housing for the past three decades, I can attest that HHFDC's board members from the private sector have provided practical experience and perspective that have been critical in the development of housing that is critically needed in our community. The replacement of one of these seats with the DHHL chairperson would seem to dilute this valuable knowledge base for the HHFDC board of directors.

Sincerely,

David M. Nakamura
Executive Director



February 16, 2021

To: **Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair**
Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair & Members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair
Sen. Dru Kanuha, Vice Chair & Members of the Housing Committee

From: **Kali Watson**
President/CEO
Hawaiian Community Development Board
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Hearing on SB 1322**
DHHL Chairman on HHFDC's Board
February 16, 2021 at 1:00 pm
Auditorium, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Keohokalole of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Members; Chairperson Chang & Vice Chair Kanuha of the Committee on Housing, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB 1322** relating to placing the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission on the Board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Board (HHFDC).

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is the primary state entity established pursuant to our State's Constitution tasked with carrying out the purpose and mandate of the federally passed Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. As part of Hawaii becoming a State, it agreed to incorporate the HHC into the State Constitution. Today, with over 28,000 native Hawaiian beneficiaries on DHHL's waiting lists, it is apparent and very clear that the State must do all that it can to move the program forward. Development and constructing affordable housing is the overwhelming challenge for DHHL and the State. HHFDC manages and awards the Federal and State Low-income Housing Tax Credits, Hula Mae Bonds, Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF), and National Housing Trust Fund – all critical and necessary funding sources necessary for any serious and successful affordable housing projects. DHHL and their developers are required to compete for these funding sources. Without any input and decision making authority relating to this HHFDC Board, it makes it very challenging to move DHHL projects forward. With a say and representation on this Board, DHHL would be in a better position to move its housing projects forward.

I urge you to please pass measure **SB 1322** out of your committees.

Pupuka I Holomua,

Kali Watson
President/CEO

Chairman of the Board

Richard Soo

Secretary

Jackie Burke

Treasurer

Helen O'Connor

Board Members

Linda Ahue

Duane Hewlen

Puni Kekauoha

Alfred "Bobby" Willing

President/CEO

Kali Watson

Senior VP

Patti Barbee

SB-1322

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:38:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gracie	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

**A'OLE CASINO! KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!
REMEMBER....HHCA OF 1921 AND WITH THAT IN MIND, USE THAT LAND TO
BUILD HOMES FOR OUR WAIT LISTERS ON THE DEATH LIST! KEEP GAMBLING
IN THE SIN CITY, THERE IS A REASON WHY! DONT MESS WITH MOTHER
NATURE, WE WAS BLESSED WITH PARADISE, BUT ITS MEN WHO WANTS TO
CORRUPT WHAT GOD ND KUHIO BLESSED US WITH! SOUNDS FAMILIAR? JUS
LIKE MONEY, ITS NOT EVIL, ITS MAN WHO MAKES IT EVIL!**

SB-1322

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 2:18:18 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose!

SB-1322

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 3:23:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Banner Fanene	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Talofa -

I do not Support Gambling generally speaking. However, in light of Hawaii's Economic Slump with negative projections, I would support CONTROLLED Gambling available to TOURISTS & Non-Resident Visitors. Let's take their \$\$\$ they can afford to burn.

If Locals can afford to fly to Vegas to Gamble, then it would be safe to assume they can financially afford to do so. If Locals cannot afford to fly to Vegas to Gamble, then obviously they cannot afford to Gamble at home.

Thank you for allowing me to offer my 2cents.

Soifua,

Lagolemu Banner Si'ufaga Fanene

SB-1322

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:30:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Recognizing that DHHL is a major developer of housing, their representation on HFDC is appropriate.

February 16, 2021

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Committee on Housing
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

SB 1322 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Designates a seat for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on the board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Chang, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Kanuha, and members of the committees,

My name is Homelani Schaedel, a beneficiary homestead leader residing in Kapolei, and an advocate for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA).

Placing a seat at Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation's board table for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is long overdue. This bill addresses the importance of being inclusive and brings into balance two (2) State entities to address affordable housing for HHCA beneficiaries and the public.

Addressing and finding solutions to our affordable housing concerns should have taken place twenty (20) years ago. Unprepared, COVID-19 blindsided our world, leaving our State with limited financial resources. Our affordable housing concerns are now a crisis at the worst possible time. We no longer can stand by and say we do not have the funding or resources to address our affordable housing crisis.

I believe all people of our State will be better served through the combined efforts, energy, and experience from public and government sectors like DHHL on HHFDC's Board. In the words of our ancestors... 'A' ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia... No task is too big when done together by all.

Consideration and passage of this bill reflects your commitment in finding solutions to better serve our people.

Mahalo for allowing me time to share my mana'o.

SB-1322

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:50:39 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha:

As a Hawaiian Homestead beneficiary, I strongly SUPPORT DHHL representation on the board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner