

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2022 AT 9:30AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HB 2134 PROPOSED HD1 RELATING TO COUNTIES

February 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill that requires counties within sixty days to maintain infrastructure, under specified conditions, as part of any housing development for DHHL. A similar measure was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and included in the Governor's administrative package by request of our department.

In addition to developing new homesteads, DHHL also has other critical, albeit lesser known responsibilities. Like a county, DHHL maintains and repairs existing infrastructure (e.g. clearing of flood channels and drainage, roads and facilities maintenance, sewer emergencies and repairs, etc.) Increasingly, this responsibility is demanding a greater share of DHHL's financial and staff resources to address.

In certain counties, the county has either not accepted portions of newer infrastructure, or has stopped performing needed repair. One example is sewer systems. Act 227, SLH 2014, clarified and confirmed that operating and maintenance of sewer systems is a county function. However, DHHL continues to maintain the sewer systems on Hawaiian home lands in the interim until Act 227 can be fully implemented in subdivisions completed after the mid-1990's. In addition, until roadways are turned over to the Counties for maintenance, DHHL continues to be responsible for major pavement repairs, maintenance of street trees, sidewalks, street lighting, signage and striping. Recently, various communities have requested traffic calming and speed abatement improvements, such as speed bumps, electronic signs, flashing beacons and crosswalk improvements.

In DHHL's sufficient sums budget request, the following Administrative and Operating Costs for Repair and Maintenance of Infrastructure on Hawaiian Home Lands financed through State General Funds are provided for the Legislature's consideration. DHHL is open to discussing and collaborating with the applicable County for repair and maintenance work that can be more efficiently and cost effectively implemented. In this

manner, DHHL can concentrate its efforts and funds available on lot development and housing its beneficiaries. Below is DHHL's Sufficient Sums budget request for FY23.

ISLAND	AREA or SUBDIVISION	MAINTENANCE	FY 2023
Hawaii	Kawaihae	Water System Operation & Maint.	120,000
Hawaii	Laiopua Villages	Brush Clearing and Fire Breaks	50,000
Hawaii	Puukapu	Water System Operation & Maint	255,000
Kauai	Anahola	Water System Operation, Maint, Emerg	75,000
Kauai	Hanapepe	Fencing/Gate Install/Repair	
Kauai	PMKK and Anahola	Maintenance	75,000
Lanai	Lanai City	Maintenance	75,000
Maui	Kula	Maintenance	200,000
Maui	Lealii	Leialii Parkway Maintenance	85,000
Maui	Waiehu Kou	Detention Basins and Ditches	125,000
Maui	Waiehu Kou	Sewage Pump Station	80,000
Maui	Islandwide	Fencing/Gate Install/Repair	
Lanai	Lanai	Ground Maintenance	
Oahu	East Kapolei II	Detention Basins (2)	30,000
Oahu	Kapolei	Maluohai, Kaupea, Kanehili Maint	75,000
Oahu	Nanakuli	Princess Kahanu Road Repairs	30,000
Oahu	Oahu	Sewage Spill Response and Repair	150,000
Oahu	Oahu	Street Light Replacement	375,000
Oahu	Oahu	Scattered Location R&M	1,200,000
State	Statewide	Tree Maintenance/Control	500,000
Oahu	Waimanalo	Drainage Channel and Tree Trimming	38,000
Oahu	Waimanalo	Detention Basin	30,000
State	Statewide	Ground Maintenance	500,000
State	Statewide	Sign Replacement	255,000
		TOTAL	4,323,000

Also in DHHL's sufficient sums budget request, the following Administrative and Operating Costs for Repair and Maintenance of Infrastructure financed through State General Obligation Bonds are provided for consideration by the Legislature. Similarly, DHHL is open to discussing and collaborating with both the applicable County and State agency for remediation, repair, maintenance and improvements of various infrastructure systems which can be more efficiently and cost effectively implemented. Below is DHHL's Sufficient Sums budget request for FY23, with emphasis on construction and remediation of existing improvements.

AREA or SUBDIVISION	PROJECT COMPONENTS	FY 2023
Hilo	Keaukaha Sewer Imp. – Masterplan/Cesspool	1,000,000
Ka'u	Ka'u Water System, Phase 2	1,000,000
Puukapu	Roadway Improvements	2,000,000
Ka'u	Ka'u Water System, Phase 3	1,000,000
Hilo	Keaukaha Road Imp. – Health & Safety	1,500,000
Puukapu	Puukapu Non-Potable Water System	500,000
Kawaihae	Kawaihae Water: Production, Storage & Trans.	1,000,000
Anahola	Anahola Dam & Reservoir Improvements	500,000
Kahikinui	Kahikinui Roadways	1,000,000
Keokea	Keokea Farm Lots Drainage System Imp.	500,000
Keokea-Waiohuli	Wastewater alternatives and feasibility study	1,000,000
Kalamaula	Kalamaula Water & Drainage System Imp.	1,000,000
Kalamaula & Kapaakea	Sea Level Rise Planning	250,000
Kalamaula/Kapaakea/ One Alii	Cesspool conversion	2,000,000
Papakolea	Papakolea Sewer Improvements Phase 2	15,000,000
Papakolea	Sewer Improvements – CM Services	2,000,000
Waimanalo	Waimanalo Bell Street Drainage Improvements	1,000,000
Waimanalo	Waimanalo Dirt Drainage Channel Imp, Phase 1	3,000,000
Waianae	Waianae Sewer Improvements	3,400,000
Nanakuli	Nanakuli Sewer Improvements	3,000,000
Waimanalo	Cesspool conversion	2,000,000
Waimanalo	Waimanalo Sewer Improvements	3,000,000
Nanakuli	Rehabilitation of School Seawall	1,000,000
	TOTAL	47,650,000

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Council Chair
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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 6, 2022

TO: Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 6, 2022

SUBJECT: **OPPOSE HB 2134, RELATING TO COUNTIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** to this measure. The purpose of this measure is to require counties within 60 days to maintain infrastructure, under specified conditions, as part of any housing development for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **OPPOSE** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The measure arbitrarily imposes unfunded mandates on counties.
2. This measure would require counties to incur the financial and administrative responsibilities of maintaining the infrastructure of housing developments for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands without dedicated revenue funding.
3. The County of Maui has a good working relationship with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. For example, the County's General Plan states: "Support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' development of homestead lands." This measure would unnecessarily interfere with that relationship.

For the foregoing reasons, I **OPPOSE** this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 8, 2022

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

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JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio
DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, Designate Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
and Members
Committee on Housing
House of Representative
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nakamura and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2134: Relating to Counties

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) submits the following comments on House Bill (HB) 2134, which requires the counties to maintain infrastructure for any housing development for the Department of Hawaiian Homes lands within a specified time and under certain conditions.

The BWS already maintains waterlines for DHHL subdivisions when water infrastructure is built to BWS standards and dedicated to BWS for maintenance. Main breaks are repaired immediately to reduce water loss and disruptions of water service.

The BWS is a semi-autonomous City department that is responsible for Oahu's critically important municipal (i.e., City-owned) drinking water supply systems island-wide. It is governed by a 7-member Board that is appointed by the Mayor and affirmed by the City Council. It was established to be financially self-sustaining depending primarily on revenue from water rates and charges, and not dependent on tax revenue. The single-focused Board has the authority to conduct long-range planning, approve the operating and capital improvement project (CIP) budgets, set policies for the department and to adopt water rates and charges without the City Council's approval.

The BWS is working well as a municipal water utility, providing safe, dependable, and affordable water to our community.

Thank you for consideration of your consideration of our testimony.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

February 7, 2021

House Committee on Housing
Nadeen K. Nakamura, Chair
Troy R. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

LATE

Testimony in Support of HB-2134

Aloha Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee

I'm Homelani Schaedel, a homestead beneficiary residing in Malu'ohai which is part of the Villages of Kapolei, a homestead leader, and an advocate for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust.

What COVID-19 has taught us, is that we need to get back to basics. Our State and City governments must work together to identify their responsibilities and resources to effectively and efficiently provide basic necessities for all our people.

We all need to ask ourselves...do we need it, or do we want it, and if we want it, can we afford it? Right now, do we need a stadium, or the rail, and can we afford either? Our state has been in a housing crisis for the past 30 years. Yet, the City & County of Honolulu has spent \$12.45 billion dollars and rising, is 12 years overdue on the Rail Project, and the State is rebuilding the Stadium.

Since 1990 to 2020, the City & County of Honolulu has collected property taxes from over 4,000 residential properties in the Villages of Kapolei estimated at more than **\$3,000,000.000.00**. Residents receive ambulance/emergency, fire, police and trash pickup city services, all other basic infrastructure maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) or Hawaii Housing & Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) subject to availability of funds.

It is disturbing when DHHL must make critical decisions, prioritizing severity and level of risk when addressing the health and safety of beneficiaries because their Repair and Maintenance Budget is limited. DHHL's Repair and Maintenance Budget for 2022-2023 is \$228,000,000 which equates to an estimated development of lots for 1,520 homes on homestead lands.

This bill is not about "Passing the Buck", its' about where "The Buck Stops", and it should stop at the Counties. Now more than ever, counties need to step up and take responsibility to repair and maintain all infrastructure for the safety and wellbeing of residents within their jurisdiction. This shift would allow allocation of funds to address our critical housing shortage, instead of repair and maintenance of infrastructure.

Your support and passage of this bill will hold counties responsible to provide all public services received by the general public, to homestead beneficiaries.

Mahalo for providing me a space to share my mana'o, your time, and attention.