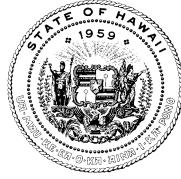


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

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 JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 24, 2022 AT 2:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HCR 63/HR 57 REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME
LANDS IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VERY LOW INCOME NATIVE
HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES**

March 24, 2022

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home lands (DHHL) submits comments on these resolutions requesting that DHHL implement programs to support very low income native Hawaiian beneficiaries. DHHL appreciates the motivation behind these resolutions, but notes that any proposed “non-traditional” programs designed to provide beneficiary applicants with awards quickly recognizing the financial constraints should consider first the Non-Traditional Awards Evaluation that was completed and shared with the Hawaiian Homes Commission at its meeting in November 2019 that can be accessed here: [file:///P:/Shared/HHC%20Packets/2019/11%20November%20\(Kula%20Community%20Ctr\)/November%2018%20&%2019,%202019%20HHC%20Meeting%20Agenda,%20Kula,%20Maui%20PACKET.pdf](file:///P:/Shared/HHC%20Packets/2019/11%20November%20(Kula%20Community%20Ctr)/November%2018%20&%2019,%202019%20HHC%20Meeting%20Agenda,%20Kula,%20Maui%20PACKET.pdf). The evaluation notes that while the number of lessees receiving awards increased significantly, the most significant weaknesses of the programs are that it took much longer than expected for lots to be improved and lessees to be able to move into their awards.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **HCR 63 / HR 57 – REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS IMPEMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VERY LOW INCOME NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Nakashima and Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HCR 63 / HR 57 and requests that these measures be PASSED by your Committee. This bill requests the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to implement programs to support very low income native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

The Environmental Caucus supports these measures as support is seriously needed by very low income native Hawaiian beneficiaries, many of which have been on the residential or agricultural waitlists for many years. Hawaii has one of the worst homeless rates in the country, historically being the No. 1 state per capita having the highest rate of homelessness, when measured by the number of homeless per 10,000 people. Further, Hawaii's homeless population contains a disproportionately high number of native Hawaiians.

The request for flexibility in allowing tents or other temporary structures on 99-year leases; Puuhonua O Waianae or other village-style living; temporary structures on vacant lots; and payment of land taxes for those who had to seek other residence outside of DHHL lands while on its waitlist are all viable options for very low-income native Hawaiian beneficiaries during the interim while seeking resources to build permanent residential homes.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify. Please pass these resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Adyja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i