

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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
DECISION MAKING ON FEBRUARY 26, 2021 AT 9:30AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SB 1323, SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 26, 2021

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this bill that requires DHHL to develop a strategic plan to devise and implement long-term solutions for eliminating the waiting list for a home land lease with an emphasis on leveraging its trust resources, statutory powers, and other means of state funding and support to focus on lot development and distribution and shall be based on a comprehensive assessment of the needs of the waitlist and with beneficiary consultation.

DHHL appreciates the motivation behind this bill, but believes the measure is duplicative of the planning system as referenced in section 1 of the bill. In addition, DHHL presented to the Hawaiian Homes Commission last month the DHHL 2020 Beneficiary Study assessing the current conditions and needs of DHHL beneficiaries. The study was designed to be consistent and similar to previous studies conducted in 1995, 2003, 2008, and 2014. There were two major surveys involved in the study, one focused on lessees and one centered on applicants. Based on applicants' indicated preferences, most are looking to DHHL to provide them with a single-family dwelling that is move-in ready.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.