

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 22, 2022 AT 10:00AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SB 3247, SD1, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

February 22, 2022

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 build rental units, apartments, and rent-with-option-to-buy housing units to address the housing needs of native Hawaiians on the waitlist for homestead leases. DHHL appreciates the motivation behind this bill, but the DHHL Beneficiaries Study Applicant Report, 2020 that can be accessed here: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/DHHL-Applicant-Report-FINAL-Revised-210426.pdf> notes that over 75% of applicants indicated a turn-key lot or vacant lot as their first choice reflected as follows:

Residential Applicants' Housing Preferences, 2020

	1st Choice	Pct.
Turn-Key (Lot with single-family house on it)	12,496	53.9%
Lot with water, electricity and sewer, but no house	5,146	22.2%
Single-family house to rent with option to buy	2,070	8.9%
Don't know/Refused	1,925	8.3%
Apartment suited for senior citizens	628	2.7%
An affordable rental unit and retain my place on the waiting list	496	2.1%
Condo or Townhouse Rental unit with option to buy	197	0.8%
Townhouse in a duplex or four-plex	135	0.6%
Condominium apartment (Multi-family building)	106	0.5%
Total	23,199	100.0%

In light of the preference of residential applicants for a single-family house or lot, this bill would not accomplish the result desired to satisfy the housing needs of native Hawaiians currently on the waitlist.

*Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
SB 3247, SD1
WAM, 2-22-2022
Page 2*

Nevertheless, if the goal is to develop affordable housing units for native Hawaiian beneficiaries in Honolulu's urban core, then a bill to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds to be appropriated for redevelopment of DHHL property located at 820 Isenberg Street may be the better mechanism.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.