

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 HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SB 717 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

February 4, 2021

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this bill that requires DHHL to digitize its applicant, beneficiary, and lessee records and create a usable digital database no later than 7/1/2022.

DHHL began implementing an electronic document imaging system in June 2013 that converted applicant and lessee records to digital media. Staff training began in 2019, and the neighbor island offices have access to DHHL's electronic record system. This significantly improved accessibility for DHHL's neighbor island offices. The primary purpose of the document management system is to easily store, access, track, and share documents from a secure and central location. The goal is to provide better customer service and create a more efficient use of staff time. It will also allow for the preservation of the original documents. This existing system can always be improved if additional resources are available as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

SB-717

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:47:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/4/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl H Adolpho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Carl Adolpho, support the digitizing of all DHHL records and processes.

SB-717

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:48:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/4/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline K. Adolpho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Caroline Adolpho, support the digitizing of all DHHL records and processes.

SB-717

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:09:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/4/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danette Nakooka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 717

SB-717

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 3:21:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/4/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I support this bill and the intent to assure proper procedures and information needed for DHHL and based on complete information and transparency for respective and qualified Native Hawaiian applicants.

Me ka mana'o nui,

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto

February 4, 2021

LATE

Senate Committee On Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokolole, Vice Chair

Re: S.B. 717

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT. Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to digitize its applicant, beneficiary, and lessee records and create a usable digital database no later than 7/1/2022.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokolole, and members of the Committee,

My name is Homelani Schaedel, a beneficiary residing in Malu'ōhai, and a homestead leader in Kapolei.

I have advocated for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to create what Senate Bill 717 proposes. Data collection is critical, as is its' use. I appreciate the committee's deference to the Hawaiian Homes Commission to determine the scope of critical information while insuring the privacy of applicants and lessees.

Although DHHL started this process in 2013, we know that information technology systems change rapidly, demanding greater mainframe and infrastructure support.

Last year Senate Bill 2369 introduced the same intent of this bill; included appropriation out of the general revenues of the State and specified that the sum appropriated be expended by DHHL. This year, appropriation for this bill is absent.

Assistance from the Office of Enterprise Technology Services would further burden an already overwhelmed staff struggling to keep up the demands of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations unemployment filers due to COVID-19.

Given COVID-19 impact to all departments at all levels within the state including DHHL, the lack of funding and timeline to complete and make the data base available for use by July 1, 2022 is unreasonable.

I respectfully request your committee defer this bill to allow DHHL and OETS to develop a plan with the funding required to execute the intent of this bill, and provide a report to this committee by July 1, 2022.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present my testimony.

