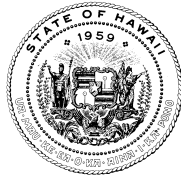


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**TESTIMONY OF IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 21, 2023 AT 1:01PM IN CR 224**

SCR 80 / SR 71

March 21, 2023

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on SCR 80 / SR 71 requesting DHHL to identify resources needed to execute a plan to repair homes for safe habitation. More specifically, SCR 80 / SR 71 request that DHHL identify resources needed to execute a plan that 1) systematically identifies unoccupied Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands properties in disrepair to confirm the occupancy status, lease status, and reasons for the current status, 2) assist current lessees in assessing what repairs are needed to make their homes safe and habitable, 3) connects identified lessees who are in need of help with applicable sources of funding, such as the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, 4) manages alternative sources of funding, 5) follows up to facilitate and expedite pending lease transfers and 6) conducts contested case hearings.

DHHL's ability to have adequate staff positions and human resources, greatly impacts the diligence and efficiency of executing a plan to repair homes for safe habitation. DHHL needs to fill a minimum of two (2) FTE positions for the Compliance team, five (5) FTE Office Assistant positions for the neighbor island district offices, five (5) FTE positions for Homestead Services Division's (HSD) Administrative services branch, and two (2) FTE positions for HSD's Application branch. DHHL may need to consider contracting out or hiring staff that has development and repair expertise to assess homes.

The two (2) FTE positions for the Compliance team would conduct surveys of the homestead communities to confirm properties that have been abandoned/unoccupied and to generate report, draft necessary letters advising lessee(s) of violation, prepare

case for contested case hearing (if necessary), and present case before the Hawaiian Homes Commission or Hearings Officer. The five (5) FTE Office Assistant positions would provide an office assistant at each of the neighbor island district offices to do non-lease transaction activities.

As DHHL prepares for the acceleration of lease awards statewide, HSD will need additional staff at all DHHL offices to provide necessary services for lessee beneficiaries regarding lease transfers/successorships/amendments, processing of designation of successors, etc. Additional staff for HSD's Application branch should be considered because when DHHL issues lease awards in mass amounts, applications for placement on the DHHL waiting list typically increases.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.