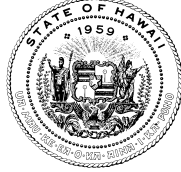


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina  
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRMAN, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. DUCATT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 12:30PM IN CR 308

**HB 2218, HD 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT**

February 26, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill which would increase the loan limit for direct loans provided by the DHHL to 75% of the maximum single residence loan amount allowed in Hawaii by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration, instead of 50%, as currently outlined in section 215 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended.

With the higher cost to construct or purchase a home, increasing the loan limit from fifty percent to seventy-five percent of the maximum single residence loan amount allowed in Hawaii by the FHA will allow beneficiaries to purchase or make improvements to their home. This bill was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and included in the Governor's administrative package by request of our Department.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**HB-2218-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:36:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeff Gilbreath	Hawaii Community Lending	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Hawaii Community Lending (HCL), a US Treasury certified native community development financial institution, to support HB2218 HD1 which would help with amending the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to allow Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to increase their loan limits to 75% of the maximum single residence loan amount in Hawaii by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration.

HCL has 22 years of experience providing loans to native Hawaiian beneficiaries of Hawaiian Homelands to support homeownership. Currently, DHHL must limit their loan amounts to 50% of the maximum single residence loan amount in Hawaii by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration. Unfortunately this constrains the ability of native Hawaiian families to build and purchase homes on Hawaiian Homelands by limiting the amount of money they can borrow regardless if they have the financial wherewithal to qualify for the loan. Increasing the limit to 75% would allow for more native Hawaiian families build and purchase homes on Hawaiian Homelands without having their construction and mortgage loan limits artificially limited by an Act that was passed over 100 years ago.

Please support HB2218 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration and leadership. Please contact me at [jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net](mailto:jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net) or 808.587.7653 should you have any questions.

Jeff Gilbreath  
Executive Director

Hawaii Community Lending