

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

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



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 Hawaii'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN**  
**HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION**  
**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**HEARING ON JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224**

**SB 2780, RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES**

January 30, 2024

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill which would 1) require the DHHL to complete an assessment and report of the feasibility of digitizing its applicant, beneficiary, and lessee records and creating an interactive digital database software program, 2) requires the DHHL to submit a report to the Legislature by 7/1/2025, and 3) makes an appropriation.

DHHL's Application Waitlists alphabetically or by island is available on DHHL's website. To modernize the DHHL information systems, DHHL is currently working with IT consultants to undertake an enterprise-wide system modernization project. The consultants and the DHHL are finalizing an implementation plan. Replacement of critical systems such as the Applicant/Lessee and Mortgage Loan system will be part of this modernization effort.

The estimated time frame is 2 to 4 years and will require intensive staff involvement. Additional staff is likely necessary to sufficiently maintain each module of the new system. IT staff is currently being hired to support the new systems. Staffing needs for other divisions specifically will be done as the new systems are designed and implemented.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:29:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
De MONT Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Ho'omana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill. We have found on the current DHHL Waitlist those who are deceased, bad address/deceased & inactive on ALL ISLANDS. We definitely need an updated & digitized Waitlist.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 7:32:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If digitizing the database is going to expedite the process for those on the waitlist then I fully support this bill.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:16:24 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tracking records will may them more efficient. Many derelict properties all over, no beneficiaries present, abandoned, etc. Something can be done to use those lots for others waiting.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:23:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Agree digitizing could be an excellent way to manage lots and update absent & abandoned beneficiaries to pass on to others on the list.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:00:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Earl S. Tenn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I suport the intent of this bill SB 2780.

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 3:52:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my support for SB 2780.

Mahalo nui, Rosie

**SB-2780**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 9:31:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/30/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Testifying for Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amend.

This is a great idea. But creating an interactive digital database software program is something DHHL should have done long ago, and is a specialized project which they should now do without additional money. You already gave them \$600 Million 2022-2023, and they are having trouble figuring out how to spend it. Pass this bill to give them a shove in the right direction, but remove the part pertaining to "Appropriates moneys."