

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

**SB 3123, RELATING TO ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 13, 2024

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fevella and Aquino,
and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill which would 1) authorize the DHHL to access vital records for purposes of verifying Native Hawaiian ancestry for beneficiary programs and 2) require the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to assure appropriate access and handling of the vital records.

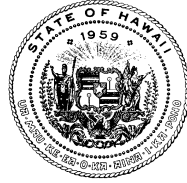
Granting authorization for DHHL to access vital records to verify native Hawaiian and Hawaiian ancestry for beneficiary programs will greatly assist the DHHL in fulfilling the requirements of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended (HHCA), at sections 201, 207, 208 and 209, and as further outlined by its administrative rules at HAR §§ 10-3-2, 10-3-8 and 10-3-36. In sum, the above referenced HHCA provisions, together with the relevant administrative rules pertaining to DHHL, require that an applicant for a new lease award be at least fifty per cent native Hawaiian, or that transfers or successorship of a lease be to certain qualified relatives who are no less than twenty-five per cent Hawaiian. DHHL must therefore verify the requisite amounts of native Hawaiian or Hawaiian lineage, which is a fundamental component of the program.

The current time length for DHHL to receive vital records once requested is approximately 4-6 weeks. SB 3123 will ease certain administrative inefficiencies for DHHL by creating a way to access necessary information quicker than the current process affords. This directly benefits DHHL beneficiaries, who suffer the most when the requirement to get, and then verify, certain records delays requests to transfer their

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
February 12, 2024
Page 2

application or lease rights, as the case may be. The DHHL and DOH continue to meet and work through inter-agency processes, which includes developing a Memorandum of Agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3123
RELATING TO ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

SEN. MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SEN. JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

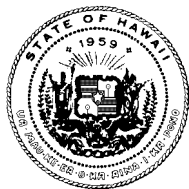
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB3123, which is
3 part of the Governor's Administrative Package.

4 This measure will greatly reduce the administrative burden for staff from the Department of
5 Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for genealogical research to establish eligibility for certain
6 programs, such as Hawaiian Home Lands homestead leases.

7 DOH and DHHL continue to meet to refine and calibrate the workflow, and will executive a
8 Memorandum of Agreement shortly.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 12, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3123 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.**

Hearing: February 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure. This measure will accelerate the verification process for Hawaiian Home land beneficiaries, aims to increase participation, and will lead to beneficiaries obtaining affordable housing.

PURPOSE: This bill authorizes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to access vital records for purposes of verifying Native Hawaiian ancestry for beneficiary programs. Requires the Department of Health and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to assure appropriate access and handling of confidential records and sealed records that have been unsealed pursuant to court order.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SB-3123

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:13:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports open records for free public access.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-3123

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 8:41:40 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Mont Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Hoomana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

We seek an AMENDMENT to make this bill, in that this bill should specifically be applied, for the purpose of FAIRNESS & EQUITY, RETROACTIVELY for ALL registered DHHL Trust Beneficiaries who have or had a Homestead, Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial lot, as well as to ALL DHHL Trust Beneficiary Waitlisters.

SB-3123

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 10:42:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis L. Neves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. This will allow the department to properly verify blood quantum and expedite the beneficiary process. This is vital to moving the needle and getting native Hawaiians on the soil.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3123

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 2:25:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of this bill.