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

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

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TESTIMONY OF IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON JANUARY 31, 2023 AT 1:01PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SB 261, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT**

January 31, 2023

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this measure that requires DHHL to provide to beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, monthly accountability reports that contain certain information on leases and fiscal matters.

DHHL already prepares extensive reports on a monthly basis covering homestead lease transactions for the Hawaiian Homes Commission that can be accessed through DHHL's website. Specifically known as the Consent Agenda (section D), an example from January 2023 can be viewed at the bookmarked section "D Items" on pages 16-57: <https://dttl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/January-17-18-2023-HHC-Packet-.pdf>. These reports include but are not limited to the following:

- Homestead Lease & Application Totals and Monthly Activity Reports
- Delinquency Report Statewide and Delinquency Ration Report by Island
- Consents to Mortgages for FHA, VA, USDA RD, HUD184A, and conventional loans
- Ratification of Loan Approvals
- Homestead Application Transfers/Cancellations
- Certification of Applications of Qualified Applicants
- Approval of Designation of Successors
- Approval of Assignment of Leasehold Interest
- Approval of Amendment of Leasehold Interest
- Approval to Issue a Non-Exclusive License for Rooftop Photovoltaic Systems for Certain Lessees

DHHL also prepares annual reports and an independent financial and compliance audit of DHHL is completed annually and can be accessed here:

<https://dhh.hawaii.gov/newsroom/annual-reports/>. Additionally, DHHL submits reports on non-general fund information for the funds and accounts identified in section 213 of the HHCA annually titled HHL Non-General Fund Report F37-47, DHHL Fund Structure, and HHL Non-General Fund Cost Elements F27-49 that can be accessed here: <https://dhh.hawaii.gov/reports/>.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



# HUI KAKO'O 'ĀINA HO'OPULAPULA

*"Let the people flourish on the land."*

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 1:01pm

By  
Elmer Ka'ai  
President and Chair  
Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula

SB 261 – Relating to Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee:

Thank you the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula (Hui Kako'o) understands the intent of Senate Bill 261, and if enacted will require greater accountability by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Hui Kako'o is concerned with the language on page 2, lines 1 - 3, which states - "an accounting of expenditures for all interests in land leases awarded pursuant to section 207 that were **exchanged or sold between beneficiaries.**" We agree that the accounting of expenditures regarding the public land lease dispositions are public records; however, disagree that the transactions between the beneficiaries are also subject to public inspection. In addition, if this measure is enacted, there needs to safeguards in place to protect any inadvertant disclosure of personal non-DHHL related records and/or informations of the beneficiaries.

Hui Kako'o suggest a simple amendment - "an accounting of expenditures for all interests in land leases awarded pursuant to section 207 that were **exchanged or sold between beneficiaries and the department.**"

Thank you for the oppourtuny to comment on SB 261.

*Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula is a volunteer community non-profit organization focusing on advocating for waitlist beneficiaries of the Hawaiian home land trust. Our organization was established in December 1994; however, our roots started with a small group of DHHL waitlist beneficiaries meeting in 1992 to provide a voice from their perspectives.*

**SB-261**

Submitted on: 1/26/2023 10:32:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/31/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB261



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**LATE**

Date: January 30, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Fr: SCHHA Policy Committee, Chaired by KipuKai Kualii  
Staffed by Rolina Faagai, SCHHA Policy Analyst

Re: SB 261 – Mandate DHHL Reporting on Land and Expenses - Support with Improvements

The Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) is a 36-year-old hui of Homestead Associations located across the state, from Kauai to Hawaii Island. We are an HHCA beneficiary organization of experienced leaders, on the waitlist and residing in homestead communities. SCHHA is duly registered with the U.S. Department of Interior as a federally defined homestead association under 43CFR Part 47/48, representing the interests and provision of services to our homestead and waitlist communities with a service area of the entire Hawaiian Home Loan Trust of 203,000 acres statewide.

Typically, our SCHHA Council Chair would lead and communicate policy positions of the SCHHA to state and federal policy makers. However recently, our SCHHA Chair of the last 8 years, Ms. Robin Puanani Danner stepped down to accept a position as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Governor.

The above referenced bill would require DHHL as a State agency to report monthly on land dispositions under HHCA Section 207 and expenses charged to HHCA Section 213 fund accounts. The SCHHA communicates its support for the accountability and transparency this measure brings by a state government agency to the defined beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA).

SCHHA recommends SB261 be amended to add land disposition reporting for all transactions under HHCA Section 204 in addition to the HHCA Section 207 cited in the current bill.

SCHHA would further recommend this measure mandate DHHL to notify by letter, every Homestead Beneficiary Association registered with the DoI Secretary, including our SCHHA member, the waitlist Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL), 60 days prior to any DHHL submittal to the Governor appointed Commission to act on any land disposition under HHCA Section 204.

Thank you. For additional information, please email [policy@hawaiianhomesteads.org](mailto:policy@hawaiianhomesteads.org)

**LATE**

**SB-261**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:03:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/31/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marlene Kamuela Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Marlene K. Purdy, support SB261. This bill will allow transparency of land and financial transactions made by DHHL by submitting monthly written reports. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**SB-261**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:22:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/31/2023 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayla Doherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The failure that is the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, must be addressed. Requiring monthly accountability reports will ensure beneficiaries and the public have access to the most up-to-date information and transparent actions taken.