

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as of December 31,
2 2022, approximately 29,300 native Hawaiian adults were on the
3 department of Hawaiian home lands application waitlist for
4 residential, farming, or ranching homesteads. The homelessness
5 crisis in Hawaii is already serious, ranking fourth in the
6 country among states with the most homeless people per ten
7 thousand residents in 2023. The waitlist backlog only
8 exacerbates this crisis that already disproportionately affects
9 native Hawaiians.

10 The legislature finds that even at the end of 2022, the
11 number of native Hawaiians on the waitlist has not significantly
12 decreased despite plans to develop more Hawaiian home lands
13 lots. As of 2021, more than two thousand native Hawaiian
14 beneficiaries have died while on the waitlist. Furthermore, due
15 to the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, those
16 waiting who are not homeless are struggling to pay rent to the
17 point where a federal government stimulus package offered relief



1 specifically for native Hawaiians on the waitlist. The
2 department of Hawaiian home lands must ameliorate this
3 situation.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
5 Hawaiian home lands to satisfy the housing needs of native
6 Hawaiians currently on the waitlist for homestead leases.

7 SECTION 2. The department of Hawaiian home lands shall
8 build sufficient rental housing, including apartment units and
9 rent-with-option-to-buy housing units, to satisfy the housing
10 needs of native Hawaiians currently on the waitlist for
11 homestead leases.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY: Lyn Deloite



S.B. NO. 2779

Report Title:

DHHL; Homestead Lease Waitlist; Rental Housing

Description:

Requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to build sufficient rental housing, including rental apartment units, and rent-with-option-to-buy housing units, to satisfy the housing needs of native Hawaiians on the waitlist for homestead leases.

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