

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO ADOPT AND
IMPLEMENT A NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH IN EACH HOMESTEAD
AREA.

1 WHEREAS, many beneficiaries under the Hawaii Homes
2 Commission Act, 1920, as amended, are reporting increased
3 illegal activities in homesteads areas across the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, because Hawaiian homestead lands are generally not
6 subject to zoning requirements, and are managed by the
7 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (the Department), state law
8 enforcement officers and county police officers often seek
9 permission from the Department before entering homestead lands
10 to investigate illegal activity; and
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12 WHEREAS, state law enforcement officers and county police
13 officers respond inconsistently to requests for law enforcement
14 services within homestead lands, and the Department often fails
15 to respond to law enforcement requests in a timely manner; and
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17 WHEREAS, due to the foregoing issues, illegal activities
18 within homestead lands have festered and become worse; and
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20 WHEREAS, due to confusion among first responders and the
21 inaction of the Department, many homesteaders have mobilized and
22 organized themselves to protect their communities by becoming
23 homestead Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) volunteers; and
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25 WHEREAS, the NSW program is primarily a crime prevention
26 program that is designed to produce results when residents and
27 human service organizations participate in improving the
28 community and their environment; and
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30 WHEREAS, NSW volunteers work with law enforcement officers
31 to pursue, apprehend, and incapacitate criminals in their
32 designated areas and homesteads; and
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1 WHEREAS, NSW volunteers and other community residents
2 collaborate with law enforcement officers to develop solutions
3 for crimes committed in their neighborhoods; and

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5 WHEREAS, each NSW is intended to protect the quality of
6 life by addressing community problems and supporting economic
7 and educational growth; and

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9 WHEREAS, NSW volunteers are organized, trained, and
10 consistently scheduled to walk and inspect the communities in
11 which they live, work, and go to school; and

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13 WHEREAS, after residents in Kanehili Homestead faced two
14 years of persistent crime and multiple delays in response from
15 governmental officials, an NSW intervened and assisted in
16 successfully shutting down a known gambling house, reducing
17 theft, reducing illegal drug activities, and reducing graffiti;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, if the Department had given the Kanehili NSW the
21 authority to permit state and county first responders to enter
22 homestead areas and investigate illegal activity, crime would
23 have subsided at a faster rate; and

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25 WHEREAS, although the Kanehili NSW was ultimately
26 successful, the Department has no real solutions to address
27 illegal activity; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
31 that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to adopt and
32 implement a Neighborhood Security Watch in each homestead area,
33 beginning with the Kanehili Neighborhood Security Watch; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
37 Homes Commission and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
38 Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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41 OFFERED BY: *Kurt Furek*

