

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 110

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2023

RE: S.B. No. 740
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.B. No. 740 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN
BENEFICIARIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to digitize its applicant,
beneficiary, and lessee records and create an interactive digital
database software program to be completed and available for use no
later than July 1, 2024.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Keaukaha Pana'ewa
Farmers Association, and three individuals. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from Hui Kako'o 'Āina
Ho'opulapula, Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations,
and one individual.

Your Committee finds that while basic Department of Hawaiian
Home Lands applicant waiting lists are available to download, the
details, including whether the person has applied for multiple
leases, been denied a prior lease, or been skipped over, are not
readily accessible. Your Committee further finds that if a
beneficiary seeks to determine the beneficiary's status, finding
and gathering that information can require weeks of work.



Therefore, this measure will require the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to compile all relevant lease information into a database to improve efficiency.

Your Committee has heard testimony from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands expressing concerns that the July 1, 2024, deadline to create the interactive digital database software program is unfeasible, and that additional time and funding for a phased implementation plan would provide a more practical solution. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands also testified that their Phase 1 estimated cost for the integrated information system was \$3,000,000. Your Committee finds that, as the digital database is intended to be a part of a broader strategic plan for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department's concerns have merit.

Your Committee also has heard testimony from Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula expressing concerns that the background information in the purpose section of this measure related to lessee abuses of the Hawaiian Home Lands program should not form the basis for this measure. Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula testified that the purpose of this measure should be solely for the provision of clear, transparent, current, and timely information for beneficiaries and the public.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to complete an assessment and report on the feasibility of creating an interactive digital database software program and to submit their report to the Legislature by July 1, 2024; and
- (2) Amending section 1 to clarify that this measure's purpose is for transparency and not to address lessee abuse of the Hawaiian Home Lands program.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 740, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 740, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

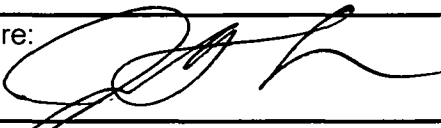


MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
GB 740	HWN, WAM	02/02/2023
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
Nay	Excused	
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	/	
FEVELLA, Kurt (VC)		/
IHARA, Jr., Les	/	
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett	/	
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	/	
TOTAL	4	—
—	—	1
Recommendation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:		
		
Distribution:		
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes