

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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Statement of  
**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 430

In consideration of  
**H.B. 525**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** HB 525, which clarifies that the dwelling units eligible for the Rent-to-Own Program shall be units that are for sale in fee simple or leasehold on state or county land under a lease with an initial term of not less than ninety-nine years and increases the time period that the sales price of dwelling units under the Rent-to-Own Program shall remain fixed from five years to ten years after the rental agreement is executed.

The rent-to-own program, which was established in 2006, provides an alternative pathway to homeownership for lower-income households. Under the program, HHFDC credits a portion of the rent received toward the purchase of the dwelling unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-525**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:21:54 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Ellen Maile Pokipala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Please continue to support and encourage all efforts to help our local people own homes in their homeland of Hawai'i. We must find a way to encourage our residents to remain home and be able to raise their families in the land of their ancestors. Any efforts to bring home ownership to our local people needs to be supported.

**HB-525**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:15:54 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Galen Fox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Evslin. VC Miyake, members:

In **support** of HB525. We face a housing crisis, and need many tools to save residents from leaving for mainland homes. HB525 provides participants in the Rent-to-Own program the lower-cost option of leasing. A 99-year lease on government land offers a price lower than purchase, but still gives residents the security of a lifetime home. Mahalo.

Aloha,

Galen Fox

**HB-525**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:05:30 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Representative Luke Evslin, Chair  
Representative Tyson Miyake, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Housing  
House Committee on Finance

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 10, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for HB525

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOUSING.

Report Title: Housing; Rent-to-Own Program; Fee Simple; Leasehold

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I am in support of House Bill 525. The extension of time suggested is within reason, in my opinion, and may afford many individuals with the opportunity to become a homeowner. Thank you for introducing this bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore