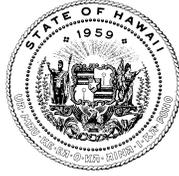


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025 AT 2:00PM IN CR 325

SB 1307, HD 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

February 10, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **strongly supports** this bill which would appropriate funds to DHHL to continue geophysical data collection, investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands.

This legislative proposal was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). The appropriation request is for follow-up funds to the initial funds appropriated to DHHL through Act 205, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which was successfully expended by DHHL. This appropriation of funds would be used for geophysical data collection, drilling of slim holes at previously examined sites, water well development, and hiring consultants to help DHHL navigate the intricacies of geothermal development.

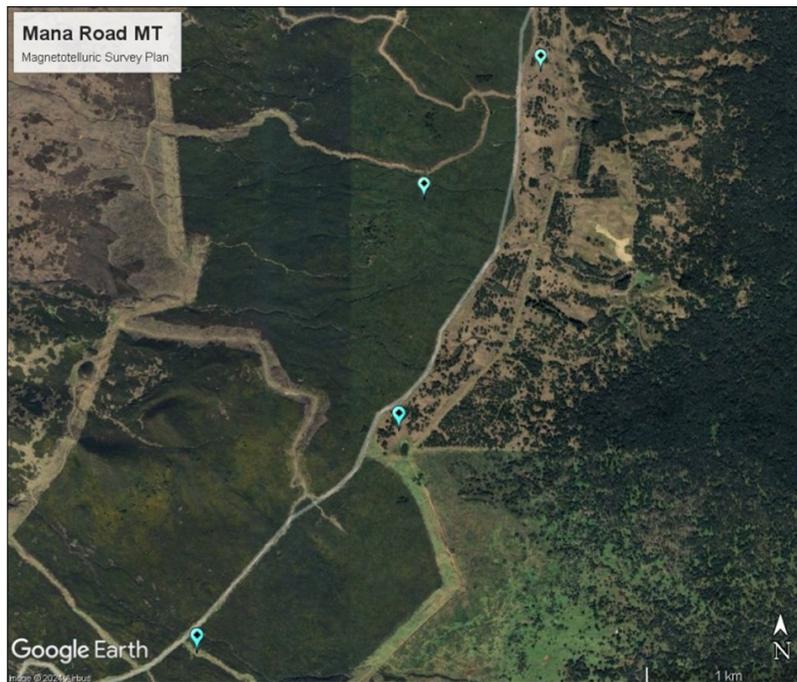
The HHC requested that a permitted interaction group (P.I.G.) be established to study, evaluate, and recommend strategies related to geothermal exploration, feasibility, extraction, and/or use on Hawaiian Home Lands. Please see attachment. The P.I.G. continues to work with the University of Hawai'i's – Hawaii Groundwater and Geothermal Resource Center, including Dr. Nicole Lautze who also serves at the University of Hawai'i's - Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology. The P.I.G. has participated in several listening sessions with beneficiaries and intends to host more community meetings.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS



Geothermal Development Project



Next Steps

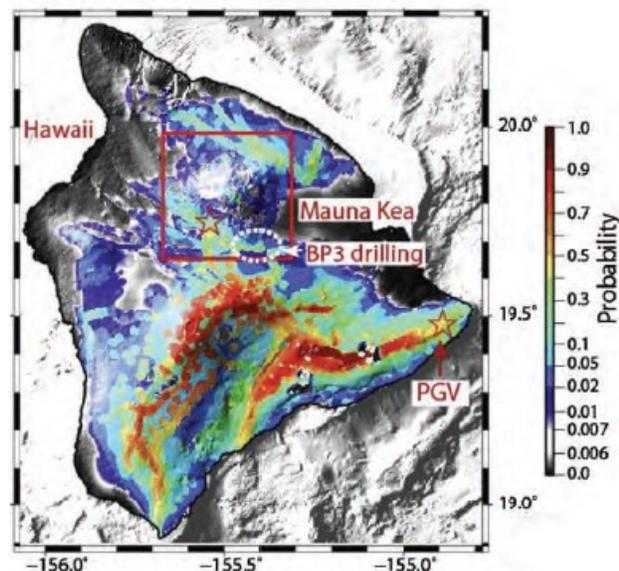
The aforementioned MT testing on DHHL’s lands commenced in October 2024. Contingent on securing funding, DHHL would like to commence slim-hole water well drilling in 2025.

State and Federal Policy and Funding

State: DHHL will request \$20,000,000 in the state fiscal year 2025-2026 to develop slim-hole water wells for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Federal: DHHL is considering policy proposals for submission to the Hawaii Congressional Delegation and is exploring USDOE funding opportunities to conduct MT testing and slim-hole water well drilling on various DHHL properties. In the long term, DHHL estimates that up to \$200M of non-competitive federal funding is ultimately needed: (i) to determine which DHHL site(s) provides the “best” opportunity for commercial production of geothermal power, and (ii) to position such site(s) for PPP development.

Resource probability map for Hawaii Island. Red box outlines area of geophysical surveying. Stars indicate a Saddle Drill site where high temperatures were found (north) and Hawaii’s only geothermal production site Puna Geothermal Venture (south)(Lautze et al., 2020)



Other Information

Findings from the December 9, 2016, geothermal investigation suggest the following:

- Information found to date at the DHHL sites investigated supports the elements required for a blind (no surface features) geothermal system to exist are present
- Further exploration is needed to determine if the elements combine sufficiently to create a viable geothermal resource at depth
- Blind, high enthalpy systems do exist in volcanic settings elsewhere globally
- Analysis of the PTA-1 core log from 1,000m showed zones of highly fractured rock & geothermal fluid-rock interaction occurred in the core
- Same core section saw a temperature increase from 40° C - 140°C (104°F - 284°F)
- Important information on 2 key control variables for the geothermal resource. Relevant for “ground-truthing” the apparent resistivity values from the Magnetotelluric (MT) survey
- Additional testing & exploration are needed to justify any exploration drilling (slim hole) at sites
- Sufficient information to warrant & justify moving forward to undertake further MT surveys to create a robust 3D subsurface model at a number of potential locations



Hydrothermally altered ground at Kilauea. Various alteration clays, discharging steam, silica residue, sulphur vents and areas of bare ground all indicate the presence of a subsurface steam zone.

Image by Gary Smith





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1307 HD 1, Relating to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mariah Yoshizu, and I am the Government Affairs Associate at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 1307 HD 1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Hawai'i needs all viable forms of renewable energy to meet the 100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045. New data underscores the widespread support among residents for this transition. Between October 2023 and January 2024, Ulupono Initiative partnered with Anthology Research to conduct a statewide public opinion survey on energy in Hawai'i involving 1,985 surveys across all four counties. With a margin of error +/- 2.21%, this is arguably the most extensive and comprehensive study on the topic to date. The findings are compelling.

A staggering 91% of respondents expressed their support for the expansion of renewable energy resources throughout the islands. Moreover, the importance of developing Hawai'i's own energy resources was emphasized across all counties by residents. This resounding endorsement from the community validates the strong support for continued investment and advancement in renewable energy solutions to meet our collective energy goals.

The proposed legislation to appropriate additional funding for geothermal resource exploration and development on Hawaiian home lands represents a forward-thinking approach to renewable energy development and community empowerment. Geothermal energy, a proven and stable renewable resource, has already provided significant benefits in other regions, such as California, Nevada, and Iceland. In Hawai'i, where energy costs are among the highest in the nation and the dependence on imported fuels creates economic

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



vulnerability, investing in geothermal energy can reduce reliance on external resources and promote energy self-sufficiency. Additionally, similar measures across the country have demonstrated that geothermal projects can catalyze local economic development, provide job opportunities, and generate sustainable revenue streams for communities.

This legislation also reaffirms a commitment to the stewardship of Hawaiian home lands by enabling DHHL to develop a natural resource that could bring long-term economic and environmental benefits to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. These efforts reinforce the importance of community engagement and equitable benefits in geothermal projects, ensuring that local populations directly experience the advantages of locally produced clean energy. This worthy investment offers the potential to not only enhance energy security but also support the DHHL's broader mission of improving the welfare of Native Hawaiians.

Finally, the legislation is a vital step in advancing Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate goals. It supports the state's ambitious target of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 while maintaining sensitivity to community priorities. By allocating resources for the exploration and potential development of geothermal energy, the state ensures the diversification of its renewable energy portfolio. Through this appropriation, Hawaii positions itself as a leader in sustainable development while addressing critical environmental and economic challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Mariah Yoshizu
Government Affairs Associate

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:33:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Our organization strongly opposes HB1307 for more Geothermal drilling on Hawaii Island. Puna has already suffered plenty from geothermal desecration of Pele. Let's not expand the desecration. Our organization has stood in solidarity with the Pele Defense Fund for more than 40 years, The state and county put corporate financial interests before respect for Pele and the health and safety of Hawaii's people. Enough.! No more.drilling into Pele. No more poisoning the people, the water, and the land.. No More Geothermal. No more desecration of Pele and the Mauna.

Mahalo for your solidarity.

Jim Albertini, president of Malu 'Aina.

--

Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760
Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org Visit us on the web at www.malu-aina.org



Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

sustainableenergyhawaii.org
info@sustainableenergyhawaii.org

February 11, 2025

SUPPORT for HB1307_HD1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee members,

I'm testifying on behalf of **Sustainable Energy Hawai'i (SEH)**, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for Hawai'i Island residents. Our mission is to enable an economic, social, and environmental revival in Hawai'i through a just transition to sustainable, 100% locally sourced renewable energy and the creation of a thriving clean hydrogen economy.

SEH supports HB1307_HD1, which "Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Hawai'i has geothermal resources available statewide. According to the Hawai'i Groundwater and Geothermal Resource center at UH Manoa, the characterization of its subsurface geology remains virtually unknown outside of the East Rift Zone on Hawai'i Island due to lack of funding. It is essential our state expedite acquisition of this data to de-risk the development of this much needed resource. This bill is critical step in furthering that end.

In summary, the ability to generate firm, clean, self-generated, baseload power is a critical bulwark against both natural and man made calamities. Hawaiian energy self-sufficiency is an urgent and important goal that benefits all who call Hawai'i home.

SEH supports the funding of qualified geophysical and geothermal research entities to sufficiently document our geothermal resources and effectively frame development efforts.

Please support this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Keith Neal
Policy Lead
Sustainable Energy Hawai'i



Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
2:00 PM Conference Room 325

RE: **HB1307 HD1** DHHL Geothermal Exploration - **Strongly Opposes**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 450 small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity. As small business owners who believe we can strengthen Hawaii's economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to oppose HB1307 despite our potential interest in furthering geothermal contribution to Hawaii Island's energy mix.

Per our research, no beneficiary consultation was conducted, which is a condition of the Department of the Interior (Hawaiians Homes Commission Act 1921). A project like this requires community engagement with beneficiaries to achieve consent and agreement of future economic benefits from any energy development.

Environmentally, the lands of Humu'ula, the preferred development site, represents some of the most important native forest areas remaining in the DHHL trust. These lands provide a glimpse of the natural, native forests that have been disappearing across the state. The lands' proximity to Mauna Kea make it a valuable cultural resource. According to the '[Aina Mauna Legacy Program](#)', DHHL's long-range planning document, to restore and protect 56,000 acres of native Hawaiian forest on Mauna Kea, the lands of Humu'ula have the potential for serving as a sustainable native forest and land unit by simultaneously proving environmental, economic and social benefits to the trust and its beneficiaries in perpetuity. Humu'ula is located directly next to lands leased by the Department of Defense for the Pohakuloa Training Area. Other sites under consideration include Kawaihae and South Point.

HB1307 requests a \$20M investment of taxpayer dollars for geothermal exploration for Puna Geothermal Venture, a local subsidiary of a billion dollar corporation, Ormat Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: ORA). Ormat derives approximately 80% of its revenue from building and operating geothermal plants, like Puna Geothermal Venture in Pahoia on Hawaii Island.

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Tanya Aynessazian
Principal Contractor

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823



(Con't)

As of December 31, 2023, Ormat held \$196M in cash and equivalents and had over **\$5.5 trillion** in current assets as of September 30, 2024. It's publicly traded stock closed on Friday, Feb 7 at \$64.02. Ormat reports its change in net working capital for FY2024 as of September 30, 2024 at \$20M. They profited \$20M in nine months. We could learn more about economic benefits to beneficiaries and Hawaii Island residents that could justify this investment if there were public meetings or at least if beneficiary consultations were held.

Given Ormat's financials, why are Hawaii taxpayers asked to fund geothermal exploration for DHHL to grow Ormat's business? Ormat should be investing their own funds. DHHL is also estimating an additional of \$200M for this project in non-competitive federal funding. This is corporate welfare.

We haven't even touched on the many water and air quality concerns regarding this project. We urge you to **oppose HB1307**. Thank you.

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
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Honolulu, HI 96823



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**HB 1307 HD1
Relating to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Greg Shimokawa
Director of Renewable Acquisition
Hawaiian Electric

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Shimokawa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in **support** of HB 1307 HD1, which seeks to appropriate funding for the continued investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands so these resources could potentially be used in the production of renewable energy.

Hawaiian Electric supports the exploration of geothermal resources as a means to help accelerate the development of renewable energy projects, achieve the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards requirements, reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, help stabilize customers' bills, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Hawaiian Electric supports the intent of identifying and developing the State's geothermal resources and renewable energy potential, and defers to policy makers on the appropriateness of funding allocations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1307 HD1.

February 11, 2025

To: Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Fr: Owana Ka'ōhelelani Salazar
Head of the Royal House of Hawai'i
Royal Order of the Crown of Hawai'i, Grand Master

Re: **HB1307**
OPPOSED

Honorable Members:

Whereas,

- It widely known that the Hawaiian Kingdom was never extinguished, and
- The so-called annexation of Hawai'i was a worldwide hoax of magnanimous proportion, resulting in one hundred and thirty-two years of illegal and illegitimate widespread acts throughout all Hawai'i and beyond.
- At the time of the passage of the 1921 Hawaiian Homestead Act, all lands selected to be known as Hawaiian Homelands were derived from Crown Lands, as created by H.M. King Kamehameha III during the Mahele in the 1840's.

Therefore,

- The ownership and stewardship of ALL Crown Lands throughout the Hawaiian Islands belong to and is the business of the Crown of Hawai'i.
- Any and all appropriations of funds / moneys to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands must be specifically allocated to the Office of the Crown of Hawai'i, who will work towards providing homes for the Hawaiian people.

Moreover,

- Any and all Hawai'i State legislation of Bills, Resolutions, Acts, etc. relating to hawaiian homelands, department of hawaiian homelands, and agencies having to do with hawaiian homelands must be halted until all Crown Lands are rightfully returned to the Crown of Hawai'i.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:32:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB1307, which proposes allocating funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development aimed at geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands.

Mission of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

The DHHL was established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 with the primary mission to manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust effectively and to develop and deliver land to native Hawaiians. This includes providing homesteading opportunities and supporting the economic self-sufficiency of native Hawaiians through land stewardship.

Environmental Concerns of Geothermal Development

Geothermal energy extraction, while often considered a sustainable energy source, carries significant environmental risks, especially on active volcanic islands like Hawai‘i. The process of drilling and developing geothermal wells can lead to the release of hazardous gases such as hydrogen sulfide, which poses health risks to nearby communities.

Additionally, geothermal fluids extracted during the process may contain toxic substances, including mercury, arsenic, and boron. If not managed properly, these substances can contaminate soil and water resources, adversely affecting both environmental and human health.

Land subsidence is another potential issue, where the ground surface sinks due to the extraction of geothermal fluids. This can compromise the structural integrity of the land, posing risks to existing and future infrastructures.

Cultural and Community Impacts

The proposed geothermal exploration on Hawaiian home lands raises concerns about the preservation of culturally significant sites. The DHHL's mandate emphasizes the importance of supporting native Hawaiian self-sufficiency and cultural preservation. Geothermal development could disrupt sacred lands and compromise the cultural heritage that the DHHL is entrusted to protect.

While the pursuit of renewable energy is commendable, it is crucial to balance energy development with environmental stewardship and cultural preservation. The potential environmental risks and cultural impacts associated with geothermal exploration on Hawaiian home lands warrant thorough consideration. I urge the committee to reconsider HB1307 and explore alternative approaches that align with the DHHL's mission and safeguard the environmental and cultural integrity of Hawaiian home lands.

Resources:

dhl.hawaii.gov

ivhnh.org

ucsusa.org

Mahalo for your time.

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, HI

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:52:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nawahine Kahoopii	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

EVERYTHING ON DHHL LANDS BUT HAWAIIANS

That's the state of Hawaii's mission statement regarding kanaka maoli. I am a resident of DHHL lands, and beneficiaries have not received any information regarding exploratory water wells for geothermal development.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) requires beneficiary consultations on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) lands, including open discussion processes to address potential issues. These processes can include dialogue, consideration of views, and seeking agreement with beneficiaries.

Are you seriously considering placing geothermal plants in the DHHL area of Kawaihae?

Are you insane?

The lands of Humu'ula have been earmarked for pastoral awards as outlined in the Mauna Kea legacy lands project. How many homes could you build for \$20 million dollars? Not only that but knowing the health risks of geothermal energy as proven by the suffering of our neighbors in Puna, how many families/children and businesses would suffer from this ill-conceived plan?

What is most insulting and unacceptable is that you would spend \$20 million of taxpayer dollars exploring the possible development of geothermal energy on behalf of a multi-billion-dollar foreign company (Ormat).

I, my ohana, and our community on Moku O Keawe are vehemently opposed to not only the taking of water but also the building of this toxic disaster on our lands.

You paid over \$300 million for your dysfunctional, inept incompetence (Kalama VS. State of Hawaii). Do you really want to go here?

Kaho'opi'i Nawahine Ohana

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:41:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Currently, the Kilauea East Rift Zone on Hawaii Island is the only geothermal system in the Hawaiian archipelago from which geothermal electric power is being produced. Preliminary research by the Hawaii Groundwater and Geothermal Resources Center (HGGRC) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa shows that all of the major Hawaiian Islands hold geothermal potential and that much of Hawaii’s geothermal resources is unknown. Under the administrative oversight of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, HGGRC should execute the geothermal resource characterization. Doing so will enable the State to further benefit from HGGRC’s research and expertise.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:34:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1307 and amazed monies have already been allocated while DHHL asks for more...this is very sad and I feel there has been no transparency on behalf of the State of Hawaii and DHHL regarding the initial approval of this funding. Has the MKSOA board been informed as they are now the oversight and Authority on our Mauna? I OPPOSE ALL and ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON OUR SACRED MAUNA KUPUNA our MAUNA A WAKEA

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:18:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hasn't there been enough problems with geothermal to make you realize this is DANGEROUS? And what business does DHHL have in the energy industry when they haven't even been able to accomplish their supposed mission to HOUSE HAWAIIANS? Money should be spent on HOUSING HAWAIIANS, not this insanity. I OPPOSE THIS as you all should.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:40:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I OPPOSE HB 1307 HD 1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The idea of drilling holes, developing water wells, collecting geophysical data, and hiring consultants for geothermal development on Hawaiian Home Lands without sufficient consultation with Native Hawaiian communities or addressing health risks is just WRONG.

Geothermal development can release harmful gases like sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide, which could affect air quality and public health. Additionally, drilling and water extraction might contaminate water sources with heavy metals or other pollutants, which could have serious health impacts for the local population, especially those who rely on the land for drinking water and sustenance.

Hawaiian Home Lands are culturally significant to Native Hawaiians, as these lands are linked to their identity, history, and traditions. When development activities, like geothermal drilling, occur without consultation or input from these communities, it can lead to cultural erosion and a loss of ancestral connections to the land. This lack of consultation undermines the rights of Native Hawaiians to have a say in the development and management of their own lands.

The decision to possibly develop these lands without thorough cultural assessments and collaboration is WRONG. Geothermal projects can have long-lasting impacts on communities, and decisions made without proper community engagement can breed resentment and distrust. A lack of transparency and a failure to include local residents and stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process is WRONG.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) of 1921, which established the Hawaiian homelands, prioritizes the well-being of Native Hawaiians. These lands are set aside specifically for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Before exploring or using these lands for resource extraction, there are legal and ethical obligations to consult with the beneficiaries to ensure their rights are protected.

NO MONIES SHOULD BE APPROPRIATED until they go through the steps of community involvement and assessment. Consulting Native Hawaiians is vital to respecting their rights, traditions, and cultural values, ensuring legal compliance, and promoting environmentally and socially responsible practices in the exploration and development of geothermal resources.

Thank you for your time.

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:14:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1307 HD1

The requirement for more funding to drill holes, develop water wells, collect geophysical data, and hire consultants for geothermal development without prior consultation and community involvement raises several significant concerns. Without consultation with the community, the department may be making decisions that do not align with the values, needs, or desires of the people.

For example, geothermal development has the potential to harm the land, water, and local ecosystems if not done responsibly. Without proper community involvement, there may be a lack of oversight or consideration for how these activities impact the environment. Not consulting the community beforehand can undermine the principle of sustainable development and may exacerbate environmental degradation, leading to long-term negative consequences for the land.

When the department moves forward with these projects without consulting the community, it undermines the trust between the government and Native Hawaiian residents. Community involvement is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability. By not engaging the public early on, the department risks making decisions without any regard for the opinions or concerns of those who are directly impacted.

Funding these projects before consultation could result in geothermal development that the community might not support especially if it leads to further commercialization of Hawaiian lands.

NO MONIES SHOULD BE APPROPRIATED until they have meaningful consultations. This bill puts the cart before the horse and is a **BAD BILL**.

I appreciate your time.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:58:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale Hoopai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State off Hawaii's mission statement regarding Hawaii's host cultural. I am a resident and beneficiary of DHHL and we have nit recieved any information regarding waer ells. There has been no beneficiary consultation which is a requirement or the Department of Interior. (Per the Hawaiian Homes Act (1821) Whenever a plan or action impacts beneficiaries a beneficiary consultation is required. The lands of Hmu'ula have been ear marked for pastoral lands as outlined in Mauna Kea Legacy land Projects. Kawaihae Residents at Puu Kamalii needs a reliable and affordable potable water source not a system that can possibly pollute our warer system and contaminate the air.

DHHL is this what you want to happen to our Land:

Geothermal energy impacts the environment through **water consumption** for cooling and **emissions of gases** like hydrogen sulfide. **Land subsidence** and seismic activity risks also exist. **Wildlife habitats** and ecosystems might be disrupted, with pollution affecting water bodies and air quality.

DHHL you have also take action to move residents and businesses of there current property to make way for this unapproved disaster. This unfair. You allowed a carbon facility to be built on hawaiian homes land that was supposed to employed residents and produce charcoal filter for medical purpose and that has been a failure. Both in the hiring and production phases.

My Ohana, myself and our community on Moku O Keawe are vehemntly opposed to not only taking of water but also building of the toxic dissaster on our lands.

Reisident of Kailapa HHL Kawaihae.

Dale Hoopai.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:57:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laulani Teale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'OLE!

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:59:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

I understand the need to find an environmentally friendly alternative to energy production, but I do not think geothermal energy is our answer. A geothermal project will very likely be operated by one entity, most likely an outside company with the expertise in geothermal. The monies going to the project and the profits from the system running the project will be leaving Hawaii, as is often the case for other large scale renewable energy projects, such as many large scale windmill and solar projects today.

The State should be focused on community driven renewable energy projects, where the money stays in Hawaii and the communities in which these projects are implemented are the ones who benefit from the project the most. Exploring smaller scale projects, like mini-solar farms that can be on DHHL property, but not to return power to the grid, but to power the housing development it is in, would be of greater use of these funds. Researching into innovative wind technologies that power individual homes or a group homes, as is done around the world, would be a better use of these funds.

Also, unlike wind, solar, or wave energy generation, geothermal requires permanent damage to the environment. The drilling into the ‘āina, once done, can’t be undone. In Hawaiian culture, the surface of the ground is sometimes seen as a body form of our goddess Papahānaumoku. To drill into the ground would be to deface/destroy parts of her, while if wind, solar, or even wave energy generation was pursued, all the structures would be temporary and merely sit on the surface (or in the ocean).

I would request that out of respect for Hawaiian cultural values and beliefs, Hawaii not pursue geothermal energy generation. We live in the perfect environment for innovations in renewable energy technology. Let Hawaii become a leader in new techniques and technologies in this field, push forth the field at University of Hawaii, and learn from international leaders of energy technology.

When the City and County of Honolulu decided to build the rail system, it was already an older technology, and when it is finally finished, it’ll be outdated and inefficient compared to similar technologies at the time. Let’s not do that with renewable energies. Let’s not invest in old

technologies like geothermal and large windmills. Let's look to future innovations that will be culturally sensitive, more efficient, less disruptive, and easily accepted by the people it may affect.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Keoni Shizuma, from Kaneohe, Oahu

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:53:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Oberman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Geothermal energy is needed to end our reliance on oil. Photovoltaic and wind are part of the equation but we have an ample geothermal resource and it's time to put it to use.

Even states like Utah are passing up Hawaii in geothermal. Seen in active volcanoes in Utah ?

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:17:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:31:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian and beneficiary of DHHL I cannot support this ill-advised bill on account of these terms below.

No beneficiaries consult: a condition of the DOI (Hawaiians Home Act 1921)

Conflict of interest: East Hawaii DHHL commissioner Micheal Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)

Environmental Racism:

A form of systemic racism that disproportionately affects marginalized communities through environmental degradation.

Corporate Welfare:

\$20 million taxpayer dollars for exploration for a \$3.8 billion dollar foreign corporation that trades on the NYSE (ormat technologies Inc. ticker: ORA)

Everything on Hawaiian homelands but Hawaiians:

Cell towers, shopping malls, car lots, churches, airports, rubbish dumps, wastewater treatment plants, public schools, public clinics, wind farms, solar farms, roads for access to telescopes, military bases, parks, easements, wealthy ranches that function as developers like Parker and Kahua ranch lease thousands of acres of pastoral lands while our people die waiting for a pastoral award. And now geothermal.

Bait tactics:

Since 1921 every project was THE project that would provide the resources to put kanaka on their lands. 30,000 remain on the notorious "waitlist" while another "project" is fed to public that will provide infrastructure needed to move the needle on the waitlist.

Greenwashing at the expense of the health and well being of kanaka families:

Greenwashing is a deceptive practice that's makes policy, activities and corporations environmentally friendly when it isn't.

Geothermal steam contains toxic hydrogen sulfide. Effects of exposure and include vomiting, vertigo, loss of coordination.

Endangered species:

The biggest threat to the Hawaiian hawk (Io) is geothermal.

Puna geothermal has several lawsuits in various stages some headed to the Supreme Court.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:58:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Pezze	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1307.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:26:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ha	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1307

We need a broader perspective not a siloed approach. Folks on the DHHL waitlist are getting older and older. As people pass on, less and less 1/2 Hawaiian people benefit. what about future generations?

The most important thing facing future generations, living out here in the middle of the largest ocean in the world is food security. Food security is not addressed in HB1307.

in the future, Artificial Intelligence will play an important role. Artificial Intelligence requires more and more electricity. We can stabilize our electricity costs by using stable cost geothermal. This will benefit future generations. Geothermal is not only found on DHHL.

Done right, Hydrogen is not tied to fossil fuels. One of the main components of Hydrogen is water. There are at least 16 perpetual streams on the Hilo/Hamakua Coast resulting from the North East Tradewinds pushing against Maunakea. This water is free.

My Pop, passed down these values to us kids when I was 10 years old.

1- Not, No Can. CAN!!

2- Get thousand reasons why No CAN. I looking for the 1 reason why CAN!!

3-Find 2 answers for every problem. And, 1 more, Just In Case!!

I am a Great, Great, Great Grandson of Kamahale Nui of lower Puna. We produced more than a million pounds of bananas annually. We produced more than a million pounds of tomatoes annually in doors. We grew hydroponic greens.

We developed a hydro generating operation from Waia'ama Stream in 2008. We had our own tissue culture lab.

We are the Kupuna. What we do today will affect future generations of keokiandmalia.com.

Aloha

Richard Ha

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:32:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

This plan has not been vetted or floated to the community.

When DHHL hold community meetings, this has not been discussed. The meetings frequently violate sunshine laws, as public notice is almost non-existent.

The Kalae "plan" that was a total farce of an environmental assessment, should be redone with a cultural impact statement and full EIS, never discussed any geothermal plans.

Oppose this bill, do not fund unvetted projects or exploration that has violated the fiduciary duties because of lack of consultation with beneficiaries.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:41:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Kanoeau Smith	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose

February 10, 2025

Nana-Honua Manuel
Kahauale'a, Puna, Moku o Keawe

Hawaii State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
HB1307 Relating to DHHL IN OPPOSITION

I am Nana-Honua Manuel. I live in Kahauale'a, Puna, Moku o Keawe. My political national status is that of an American Citizen as a child born in occupation takes on the nationality of her parents. My husband is a kanaka maoli whose parents were born & raised at Kamao'a & Kiolaka'a homesteads. We have 4 grown children and 7 mo'opuna.

Kahauale'a was a proposed site for a 500 MW geothermal development in the 80's. That development was stopped by the Pu'u 'O'o eruptions at Kahauale'a that overran most of the proposed wells. The Campbell Estate lands were swapped with the State for lands at Wao Kele o Puna. That project was stopped by massive community protest including over 400 arrests.

DHHL lands are part of the "ceded" lands Public Land Trust. The PLT is composed of the Government & private Crown lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom ceded to USA at annexation. "Ceded" refers to cession and there is no treaty of cession between USA & Hawaii. As such, both the title to the federal DHHL lands & the title to the natural resource claimed by the State of Hawaii are cloudy.

I could not find where the DHHL lands at Kamao'a/Puueo (South Point) are identified as having geothermal potential. It is ironic that this bill proposes a water well development for geophysical investigation to study potential for geothermal development at a site where lessees have had no access to water for over 30 years. When Kali Watson was last at DHHL, he proposed a rocket launch facility there. It was shut down by the locals as was the proposed prison and the Hawaiian Riviera Resort.

Michael Kaleikini has a conflict of interest having been employed by Puna Geothermal Venture (parent company is Ormat) for 28 years and serving a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner and participating in the Permitted Interaction Group study for Geothermal development on Hawaiian Homes Lands.

There needs to be extensive beneficiary consultations with the various Hawaiian Homes organizations. Should the State fund the foundation of a Public/Private development of a for profit entity?

Lastly, I would suggest that the deep pocket Federal funding for alternative energy projects may not be available due to the change of USA Federal administration.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony,

Nana-Honua Manuel

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:07:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mililani Trask	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on behalf of Mililani Trask for HB1307

I OPPOSE HB 1307 appropriating funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1). The DHHL does not have the commercial governance capacity to successfully manage a project of this scale.

I SUPPORT the DBEDT bill for Geothermal Exploration under SB1269 and HB1403 for the following reasons.

- DBEDT's intent under this legislative ASK is to pursue Geothermal Development for the purpose of "Exploring the commercial viability of geothermal." DBEDT is mandated to pursue economic development for the State of Hawaii. Affordable and reliable electricity is needed to do that. Energy is a key driver of the economy that impacts all levels of the socioeconomic scale.
- DBEDT is pursuing commercial power generation to build an operational power station on Hawaii island.
- DBEDT created a phased strategic integrated Development Roadmap culminating in a power plant with built in milestones to mitigate project risk with clearly defined exit points if milestones are not met.
- DBEDT's Roadmap explores multiple locations throughout the entirety of Hawaii island, not just specific landowner locations which expands the footprint for generation and delivery and increasing the probability of success;
- Why Big Island? Because it has proven geothermal resources. The most abundant resource supply is on the Big Island. This is the location with the most extensive exploration conducted to date and the only island with a currently producing Geothermal Power Station in the State.
- Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) mandates that the State of Hawaii produce 100% of its electricity from clean, renewable sources. Geothermal is the only commercially mature technology with a baseload potential. Governor Green has also recently mandated that the neighbor islands be 100% clean, renewable by 2035.

Please review the testimonies submitted in support of SB1269, you will see in addition to myself, significant support from both government and community leaders from Hawaii Island that include the following individuals:

- Hawaii Island Mayor, Kimo Alameda
- Hawaii County District 9 Councilmember, James Hustace
- Former Hawaii Island State Senator, Malama Solomon
- Hawaii Island resident and former US Congress Representative and current OHA Board Chair and Hawaii Island Trustee, Kai Kahele.
- Community Leader Patrick Kahawaiola'a
- Former Chair of the Legislative Geothermal Working Group and Hawaii Island farmer, Richard Ha.

Sincerely,

Mililani Trask, Esq

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:13:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hazel Kuahiwinui	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:24:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fernanda Kuahiwinui	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:44:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimmer Horsen	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I Kimmer Horsen strongly OPPOSE HB 1307

* HB1307:

"Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands."

Toxic geothermal is a dinosaur - solar is much cheaper & getting cheaper.

Geothermal takes millions of gallons of water. With solar, no need for evacuation plans, no sinkholes or earthquakes, no contaminated wastewater, no blowouts or emergency venting, no dangerous hydrogen sulfide, Pentane, or other hazardous chemicals, no industrial noise, no enhanced geothermal fracturing. Solar. Cleaner, cheaper.

Mahalo!!!

Kimmer Horsen

Nahonu

State of Hawai'i legislature

Judicial and Hawai'ian Affairs Committee

Re: HB1307 HD 1 – Relating to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

DHHL; Hawaiian Home Lands; Geothermal Resources; Appropriation (\$)

Dear State of Hawai'i Legislators of the House Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

My name is **Terri Napeahi** of Hilo, Hawai'i, a Beneficiary of the Keaukaha & Panaewa Hawaiian Home Lands, Hilo, Hawai'i. Please accept my testimony relating to Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, for the appropriation of funds for DHHL for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1307

I am opposing this bill for the following reasons:

1. NO BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION - I testified a few times in front of the DHHL Commissioners Sept. 18, 2023 and last year at the DHHL Commission meeting on Maui, when the DHHL Commissioners discussed their initiatives to Develop Geothermal. Mr. Palikapu Dedman and I had at least 10 minutes to share our mana'o (thoughts) on the subject of Geothermal and its failed history. Chair Kali Watson was not in attendance. Hawai'i Island Commissioners Frietas and Michael Kaleikini voted to push this project forward with no Statewide Beneficiary Consultation. There is a CONFLICT of INTEREST with the Hilo District DHHL Commissioner, Michael Kaleikini. This Commissioner should have recused himself every time the project of Geothermal was presented on the Commissioners agenda, because he is an employee of PGV, the only Geothermal plant operating in lower Puna, Hawai'i. However, this issue was never addressed.

2. GEOTHERMAL IS NOT RENEWABLE & HAZARDOUS - Geothermal research started on Hawai'i Island in 1961 when the Hawai'i Thermal Power Co. drilled four privately owned wells in Kilauea's east rift zone. The State and the National Science Foundation continued to research geothermal possibilities for Hawai'i The Hawai'i Geothermal Project Well-A (HGP-A) was constructed in 1975-76 and a 3 MW geothermal generator operated from 1981-1989. I lived less than a quarter mile away from this facility, and remember well the continuous odor of gas leaks when living in Leilani Estates. My in-laws lived on Leilani Blvd, only a few steps away from HGP-A. They have endured so much of the leaky gases since the inception of the drilling well. They eventually sold their home and relocated to a safer place in Puna. There was a major BLOW-OUT that vented hydrogen sulfide all over our community residents. We were evacuated, because it was very hazardous and dangerous. It took them several hours for them to cap the well. When it blew, it sounded like a 747 airplane landed in our front yard. In 1991 PGV had a blow-out that vented more than 2,200 pounds of hydrogen sulfide over a 30 hour period, killing animals and forcing the evacuation of many residents. The most recent lava flow by TUTU PELE, surrounded PGV, but changed the subsurface resource below. PGV is **not** currently producing the proposed energy they were contracted to produce for Hawaiian Electric Company. Don't take my word for it, ask Michael Kaleikini who works for PGV. He should have told the other commissioners what's really happening at his Geothermal Plant in Puna. Because of the 2018 lava flow, PGV had to do another Environmental Impact Study,

and regardless of the opposition of some of the community members and Pele Defense Fund, the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (HPUC) approved two final amendments. There is a lawsuit filed currently against PGV (Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals).

3. HISTORY OF STATE PUSH FOR GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT IN PUNA – “ In 1992 case of *Pele Defense Fund v. Paty*, Hawai'i Supreme Court rendered a landmark decision which broadly held that native Hawaiian rights protected by article XII, section 7 of Hawai'i Constitution “may extend beyond the ahupua'a in which a native Hawaiian resides where such rights have been customarily and traditionally exercised in this manner.” This controversial decision abolished over 100 years of Hawai'i Supreme Court precedent which restricted native tenant gathering rights to the ahupua'a of residency. The ahupua'a residency requirement had been judicially imposed since at least 1858 in *Oni v. Meek*, and reaffirmed as recently as 1982 in the case of *Kalipi v. Hawaiian Trust Co.* Further, the *Oni* and *Kalipi* decisions were predicted upon the Kilauea Act of 1850 and its modern day successor, Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 7-1. Both sources limit the practice of customary and traditional rights to tenants residing within the ahupua'a in which they seek to exercise the rights.” Written by Henry Curtis.

I tried to tell the Commissioners of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, that this case law of *Pele Defense v. Paty*, set precedent for Native Hawaiians who see the extraction of a resource, that is believed to be the “blood veins” of a deity (PELE), can be litigated even today. I challenged in the newly formed Environmental Courts, a geothermal survey on Hualālai lacking an environmental assessment, October 13, 2015. This project spear-headed by Donald Thomas was challenged by 9 plaintiffs in 2015, and the project halted.

4. PELE DEFENSE FUND - I am a member of the Pele Defense Fund, and have had over a decade of first-hand experiences challenging Geothermal projects and have been mentored by the President of Pele Defense Fund Palikapu Dedman, *who filed the lawsuit Pele Defense Fund v. Paty*. Cambell Estates with True Geothermal in Wao Kele 'O Puna happened and the opposition led by Pele Defense Fund was a huge historical moment for Native Hawaiians and the people of Puna. Approximately 142 arrests were made. True Geothermal operations halted, when no energy resource were found. Scientist Donald Thomas did thermo-subsurface studies in 1981, to show where the best resources could be found, and that would be the rift of the Big Island. DHHL is proposing to do Geothermal at very high elevations (Humu'ula), away from the Volcano rift zone. You should ask them for a REPORT of their proposed operations. The people of Hawai'i will not support this initiative. It would be a wise to discuss and mitigate with our group of constituents, to further understand what has happened in the past with GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENTS ON MOKU 'O KEAWE!

DO THE RIGHT THING! DON'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF LOSING TAX PAYER'S DOLLARS!
The State of Hawai'i's initiative to develop 20 Geothermal plants to push 500 Megawatts with an underwater sea cable to Oahu, FAILED!

Sincerely.

Terri L. Napeahi – Hawai'i Island Resident and DHHL Beneficiary

tnapeahi@yahoo.com

(808) 769-9305

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:29:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Steiner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing HB 1307: Geothermal Exploration Funding

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee . My name is Jasmine Steiner, and I am a lifelong resident of Puna, Hawaii, born in 1988 and raised in a sunken acre basically at the base of Puna geothermal Venture on Mohala street in Leilani estates. I stand in strong opposition to HB 1307, which proposes allocating \$20 million for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands.

This bill is deeply troubling for several reasons, and I speak not only for myself but for a large portion of our community who have suffered the consequences of unregulated geothermal activity for decades.

A major concern of mine, and many, is the claim that this funding is necessary for the delivery of Hawaiian Home Lands. This is a false choice. It pits the legitimate need for land against the very health and well-being of our community. This is unacceptable. We should not have to sacrifice our health and cultural heritage for the promise of land. There are other, more sustainable and culturally appropriate ways to address the land needs of native Hawaiians.

My personal experience with geothermal’s detrimental effects is profound. My father suffers from 90% mercury poisoning, a direct result of the toxins released by the nearby geothermal plant. I myself have been diagnosed with multiple chronic illnesses, and my child has had to withdraw from public school due to the toxic air caused by geothermal emissions. These are not isolated incidents. Many in our community experience similar health issues, yet our cries for help have been largely ignored.

Furthermore, this exploration, which involves drilling and fracking on an active volcano, is a direct affront to our cultural beliefs and practices. It is a desecration of Pele's domain and a blatant disregard for the ‘aina that sustains us. How can we, as children of Hawaii, condone such disrespect for our land and our cultural heritage?

Beyond the cultural and health impacts, the environmental consequences are equally alarming. Geothermal operations threaten endangered endemic species within critical habitats. This pursuit of energy at the expense of our unique and fragile ecosystem is short-sighted and irresponsible.

I also want to emphasize that our community is currently engaged in an unprecedented legal battle, with an injunction against geothermal operations headed to the Supreme Court. For this committee to even consider allocating funds for further exploration while this legal challenge is ongoing demonstrates a shocking disregard for the concerns of the people. It is a slap in the face to those of us who have been fighting for environmental justice for generations.

Due to the ongoing struggles the Hawaiian community is already dealing with due to 40 years of purposefully unmonitored toxic geothermal, I actually have a community organization start-up named KahuPuna, which works very hard 24/7 advocating for accurate geothermal education and supporting the people in the community who are completely concealed and covered up who have been seeking help for generations regarding this. We have witnessed firsthand the devastating impacts of geothermal development, and we cannot allow further desecration of our land and harm to our people. Currently my goal is a small air monitoring hub and communication hub for disaster response in geothermal radius on the Puna coast. Its a very dangerous environment which cannot be dismissed and ignored any longer as you try to fund MORE.

Finally, I urge you to consider the ethical implications of this bill. We, the people of Hawaii, have repeatedly voiced our opposition to geothermal expansion. We have shared our stories of suffering and loss. We have demanded that our voices be heard. It is your kuleana, your responsibility, as representatives of the people, to listen to our concerns and act in our best interests. We are not your personal piggy banks. You work for us.

Therefore, I implore you to reject HB 1307. Choose the health of our community, the preservation of our culture, and the protection of our environment over the profits of a few. Choose Aloha 'Aina. Choose justice.

I am looking forward to seeing you folks in these seats do the right thing. It sure seems to be criminal at this point.

#AOLEPGV #PGVINJUNCTION2024

Thank you.

Jasmine Steiner

KAHUPUNA

Aloha Activism

wearepuna@gmail.com

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:36:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie K Akana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of HI and in opposition to HN1307 for the following reasons:

The request for funds by DHHL for drilling for water, and geothermal exploration at South Point Kawaihe and Humu'ula/Pohakuloa is grose inappropriate use of state tax dollar funds. This is a horrible bill that will destroy the delicate ecosystem of Hawai'i island, the natural flora/fauna and wildlife. Exploration drilling can destroy hundreds of acres of top soil and further damage an already hemoraging natural wildelife ecosystem. This is a place where many endangered species of plants and animals call home. Once damage like this is done, it can't be undone. I urge the Legislature to consider the will of the people who vote you in office. Our voices have not been formally received on this matter and this is wrong.

There has been no communication with the residents of Hawai'i island to discuss the proposed process of drilling, the budget for it, exactly what areas involved. Getting feeback from the residents of HI should be priority before asking for funding for something this detrimental to the land. As a Kanaka resident I want my voice to be heard on such a matter.

I urge you to vote NO on bill 1307.

Mahalo, Laurie Akana

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:01:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee members,

I'm testifying in support of HB1307_HD1, which "Appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for water well development for geophysical investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands."

Geothermal energy represents an underutilized resource, one that has the potential to provide Hawaii with abundant, affordable firm power across multiple islands. To effectively deploy this resource, we must invest in proper research and exploration to catalyze its development.

HB1307 HD1 will enable some of the needed research.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo,

Noel Morin

Hilo - Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:40:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Wilkie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't spend money on exploring more geothermal it's toxic and dangerous.

Solar power is the way forward in Hawaii.

Thank you

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:54:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adam medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Say no to geothermal in Hawaii. Puna geothermal is a mess. We have no evacuation route it is a danger to the safety of our community. NO GEOTHERMAL IN HAWAII!!

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:57:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willette K. Akima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Willette Kalāokahaku Akima-Akau and I strongly urge you to vote against this HB 1307 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS. Any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo, Willette

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:09:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I opposed HB1307

There is conflict of interest East Hawai‘i DHHL Commissioner Micheal Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)—a clear conflict of interest in supporting this bill.

- Systemic exploitation of Native Hawaiian lands while communities suffer from environmental degradation.
- This bill directs \$20 million in taxpayer dollars for geothermal exploration that ultimately benefits Ormat Technologies Inc., a \$3.8 billion foreign corporation traded on the NYSE (Ticker: ORA).
- DHHL lands have been used for cell towers, shopping malls, car lots, churches, airports, wastewater treatment plants, wind & solar farms, military bases, and wealthy ranch leases, while 30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist.
- Now, they want to add geothermal to the list while kanaka are still waiting for their land awards.
- Since 1921, every project was "the project" that would finally put kanaka on their land. Yet the waitlist remains at 30,000 while DHHL feeds another "solution" to the public that promises infrastructure but fails to deliver.
- Geothermal is not "clean energy"—it's greenwashing.
- Geothermal steam contains toxic hydrogen sulfide, which can cause:
 - Vomiting
 - Vertigo
 - Loss of coordination
- The biggest threat to the Hawaiian hawk (‘Io) is geothermal energy development.

Puna Geothermal Has an Ongoing History of Lawsuits, some heading to the Supreme Court.

- Toxic Emissions: Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) has a history of toxic emissions, including:
 - A blowout in 1991
 - A hydrogen sulfide violation in 2016
- Water Pollution & Hazardous Waste: Geothermal energy can contaminate groundwater and requires careful waste disposal.
- Cultural Desecration: Some Native Hawaiians believe geothermal extraction violates sacred land and desecrates Pele.
- Land Subsidence: Geothermal activity can lead to dangerous shifts in the land.

Mahalo,

Tiare Smith

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:26:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danny Feliciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1307

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1307, which aims to direct \$20 million in taxpayer dollars for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Homelands. This bill raises serious concerns regarding conflicts of interest, environmental racism, corporate welfare, and the desecration of sacred lands.

Conflict of Interest

The bill is supported by East Hawai'i DHHL Commissioner Micheal Kalekini, who also serves as the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat). This clear conflict of interest undermines the integrity of the legislative process and raises questions about whose interests are truly being served.

Environmental Racism

HB1307 perpetuates a systemic pattern of exploiting Native Hawaiian lands while local communities bear the brunt of environmental degradation. This is a form of environmental racism that disproportionately affects indigenous populations, further marginalizing those who have a deep cultural and historical connection to the land.

Corporate Welfare

The bill funnels taxpayer dollars to Ormat Technologies Inc., a foreign corporation with a market capitalization of \$3.8 billion. This is a blatant example of corporate welfare, where public funds are used to benefit private interests rather than addressing the pressing needs of the Native Hawaiian community.

Misuse of Hawaiian Homelands

DHHL lands have been repeatedly used for commercial and industrial purposes, including cell towers, shopping malls, and military bases, while thousands of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries

remain on the waitlist for land awards. Adding geothermal exploration to this list further delays the fulfillment of promises made to the kanaka maoli.

Health and Environmental Concerns

Geothermal energy is not the clean energy solution it is often portrayed to be. It comes with significant health risks, including exposure to toxic hydrogen sulfide, which can cause vomiting, vertigo, and loss of coordination. Additionally, geothermal development poses threats to endangered species like the Hawaiian hawk (‘Io) and can lead to water pollution, hazardous waste, and land subsidence.

Cultural Desecration

For many Native Hawaiians, geothermal extraction is seen as a desecration of sacred land and a violation of the spiritual significance of Pele. This bill disregards the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the indigenous community, further alienating them from their ancestral lands.

Legal and Safety Issues

Puna Geothermal Venture has a history of legal troubles and safety concerns, including toxic emissions and lawsuits. Supporting this bill would only exacerbate these issues, putting both the environment and local communities at risk.

I urge the committee to reject HB1307 and prioritize the needs and rights of the Native Hawaiian community. Our ‘āina deserves protection from exploitation, and our people deserve respect and justice.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Danny Makalauna Felician

87-343 Kulaaupuni Street

Wai‘anae, Hawai‘i 96792

Maka808style@gmail.com

(808)255-2332

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:42:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Lyman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is so exhausting watching our government bodies work against indigenous people, misappropriate funds and contribute to the desecration of our land and water. Your oaths to represent the citizens of Hawaii are deafened by repeated attempts to undermine the people of this state.

Please consider this: abuse is not determined by the abuser, it is the abused who has the right and responsibility to hold the line. No means no. That includes the perpetual rape of Earth, of our cultural beliefs and practices, and of our limited finances. Siphoning monies to fund actions the citizenry doesn't support is an act of tyranny, reserved only for the most callous, disrespectful and disengenuous leaders.

We must do better. YOU must do better. Please do not support this bill that feeds distrust, diminishes the sanctity of our republic, and seeds the exponential disruption of Hawaiian peace and prosperity.

This is not the time to make political and psychological land grabs, it is the time to repair our social fabric. Undercutting just one citizen in opposition of this bill is to disregard all citizens of this blessed state that holds its nation within captive.

Please vote this bill down!

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:42:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaiwa kanui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident on Hawaiian Home lands, I oppose this bill

I am apalled that The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is requesting \$20 million for geothermal exploration without beneficiary consultation, a violation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (1921) and Department of the Interior conditions.

Please do what is right, this is not pono

Makaiwa Kanui

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:47:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this attempt to use DHHL lands and public monies to invest in yet another private entity controlling our utilities/infrastructure. Here are some reasons why:

Conflict of Interest

- East Hawai‘i DHHL Commissioner Micheal Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)—a clear conflict of interest in supporting this bill.

Environmental Racism

- Systemic exploitation of Native Hawaiian lands while communities suffer from environmental degradation.

Corporate Welfare

- This bill directs \$20 million in taxpayer dollars for geothermal exploration that ultimately benefits Ormat Technologies Inc., a \$3.8 billion foreign corporation traded on the NYSE (Ticker: ORA).

Everything on Hawaiian Homelands... Except Hawaiians

- DHHL lands have been used for cell towers, shopping malls, car lots, churches, airports, wastewater treatment plants, wind & solar farms, military bases, and wealthy ranch leases, while 30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist.
- Now, they want to add geothermal to the list while kanaka are still waiting for their land awards.

Bait Tactics

- Since 1921, every project was "the project" that would finally put kanaka on their land. Yet the waitlist remains at 30,000 while DHHL feeds another "solution" to the public that promises infrastructure but fails to deliver.

Greenwashing at the Expense of Kanaka Health

- Geothermal is not "clean energy"—it's greenwashing.
- Geothermal steam contains toxic hydrogen sulfide, which can cause: Vomiting, Vertigo, and Loss of coordination

Endangered Species at Risk

- The biggest threat to the Hawaiian hawk (‘Io) is geothermal energy development.

Puna Geothermal Has an Ongoing History of Lawsuits

- Several lawsuits are in various stages, some heading to the Supreme Court.

Environmental & Safety Concerns

- Toxic Emissions: Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) has a history of toxic emissions, including: A blowout in 1991 and A hydrogen sulfide violation in 2016
- Water Pollution & Hazardous Waste: Geothermal energy can contaminate groundwater and requires careful waste disposal.
- Cultural Desecration: Some Native Hawaiians believe geothermal extraction violates sacred land and desecrates Pele.
- Land Subsidence: Geothermal activity can lead to dangerous shifts in the land.

Please Oppose Bill HB1307 and stop this continued use of Hawaiian Homelands for everything EXCEPT Hawaiian homesteading.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:12:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Calderon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED

I personally know of an individual who lived in close proximity to PGV. He obtained a small (in my opinion) settlement and moved. However, he still suffers with headaches and sore muscles -- everyday. What good is money if you don't have your health?

I am actually shocked that DHHL has chosen this route, and in the name of the 29,000 people on the waiting lists. My mother is on Ag and Residential, and hasn't budged all these years. She's 90 now. I guess that's one way to alleviate the lists. Kali Watson -- I had such high hopes and expressed so to others on the lists saying now we're going to see movement. **FIND ANOTHER WAY, NOT GEOTHERMAL.**

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:27:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherrie Galdeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sherrie Galdeira, constituent of Hawaii Island and I vehemently vote "NO" on HB1307 HD1.

I am a 16 year DHHL waitlist veteran and I have not received information regarding exploring water well systems. No consultation, no notice to DHHL recipients, waitlisters and constituent community members against consultation requirements required by the US Federal Department of the Interior, Hawaiian Home Act 1921.

A geothermal plant placed in a residential area disserves the interest of the health and wellness of residential community members and their families. Many of whom are kupuna and keiki. The environmental impact this would have on the native population of fauna & flora. Our already endangered species of native honey creeper and insects.

Is it true that East HI DHHL Commissioner, Michael Kelekini is also the Director of the Puna Geothermal Venture Ormat Technology, Inc. which is a clear conflict of interest in supporting this bill?

STOP THIS HEWA!!!!

Mahalo,

Sherrie Galdeira

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:30:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1307.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:33:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I believe that investing in smaller scale solar will be less intrusive to the aina, and would bring more of a direct benefit to the people than a corporate geothermal project that will take its profits elsewhere. I believe geothermal will have too many risks to pollute the soil and air. Offshore wind, tidal, and even to some extent small-scale hydroelectric will do less harm. I would rather see more investment into green hydrogen if we are looking to explore bigger scale utilities here on the islands. Mahalo.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:35:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Hanoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 10, 2025

To: The members of the Hawai‘i State Legislator

RE: Letter of opposition to Bill #HB1307

Dear Hawai‘i State Legislators and DHHL,

Aloha, my name is Sophia Hanoa I was born and currently reside in Pahala in the district of Ka‘ū. I just received a notification a few days ago about the intention of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. In May of 2022, I attended the blessing of the new water tank that was installed at Kalae, Southpoint. Native Hawaiians who received 25-acre lots years ago are still without water. What happened to the funds that were allocated for that project? Getting more Native Hawaiians on the ‘āina focusing on sustainability should be the priority in Ka‘ū right now. We have earthquakes every day in Ka‘ū. The last thing we need is fracking for profit.

I strongly oppose HB1307. As a traditional cultural practitioner, this act goes against everything we were taught by our Kūpuna here in Ka‘ū. This is a physical assault on Tutu Pele as well as those who respect traditional values. It is a struggle to maintain the authenticity and lifestyle of what is left here in Ka‘ū. Many strangers with hidden agendas use cultural grants to desecrate Ka‘ū for profit. People falsify genealogy to tie themselves to the ‘āina. At the end of the day, Tutu will decide. We own nothing. We are only caretakers. Why would DHHL and all involved subject our people here on Moku o Keawe to unnecessary stress? Is this part of the drill baby drill, Project 25? Taxpayers deserve transparency.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if the Kuleana and promises made to the people of Ka'ū and Moku o Keawe will be fulfilled. Hopefully, the respect for our Tutu and people will be honored. Say no to HB1307.

Mahalo,

Sophia Hanoa

sophiahanoa@gmail.com 808-928-6235

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:49:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kekauoha-Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HB1307 and I'm disappointed that DHHL would even think of taking this stance against our land. This is a blatant disregard for funds meant to benefit the native Hawaiian community. It is also a desecration of land. I strongly oppose this bill HB1307.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:52:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Walsh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- I STRONGLY oppose this idea to further the agenda of "clean energy" at the obvious expense of our precious natural environment. Obviously there's a huge conflict of interest here in gaining Hydrogen energy potential for Puna Geothermal and the state. But even more obvious is the conflict of interest between actual housing for Hawaiians by DHHL and their pursuit of immediate financial gratification, which serves only a few - not the actual 30,000 list (and so many more) beneficiaries DHHL should represent. Shame on them for even trying to pursue money over people. Please do not let this dangerous attack on Hawaii's people and their homeland continue, and do not allow this kind of "greenwashing" bill pass. And for the sake of what is left of our already fragile watershed, drilling for "potential" hydrogen fuel is beyond disastrous.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:55:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Bezilla	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:57:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB1307. I don't believe we need a special fund to allow DHHL drilling. Mahalo!

Malia Marquez

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:00:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sha'le Madrona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Ka Kou,

My name is Sha'le Madrona, and I oppose bill HB1307. I am a Hawaiian with a heart that is concerned for what is done and being to our aina and to our people. I am in disbelief of what the Department of Hawaiian Home lands is requesting. Geothermal has poisoned our community, our land once before. I researched and read numerous testimonies of the health and lifestyle of our residents in the Puna community. And to this very day, many still suffer and fight the cancerous health problems that was the cause and effect of the Geothermal out in Puna. And here we are today, fighting to save our Mauna, the desecration and drilling of our land. Puna was the coast of the island, DHHL wants to drill the Mauna, the same Mauna that provides our aina the fresh water resource. The Mauna's water source is the fingers beneath our land and our island. It feeds its life source to our land. We drink and we eat what it waters to help it grow. It is our life source. If you drill we lose what helps us live. If you drill you drill you desecrate our land, If you drill you poison the fresh water that brings life to our aina. Do not let the DDHL access our land. Keep our aina as it is, purified and whole. WE ARE HAWAI'I, we will STAND TOGETHER as a community, as a family, and as residents of our Island. Please reflect and think about what you are doing. Geothermal is NOT for the betterment of the people of Hawai'i it is the door to destroying our land. OPPOSE HB1307 Thank you for letting me express and share my heart. I love Hawai'i, OPPOSE HB1307

Mahalo nui,

Sha'le Madrona

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:03:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Huang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1307 because of the environmental concerns in toxic emissions, water pollution, release of hazardous waste, and cultural desecration.

For toxic emissions, PGV has previously had blow outs, and chemical release violation. There is no regulation in place for these disasters and no one is planning for that. These blow outs will happen and the best way to prevent them is to halt the project.

I believe that Native Hawaiians should have the right to speak and decide on this issue. There is obvious opposition to this bill. Please listen to the people and what they have to say.

Perhaps consider a different site or the necessity of this project again.

Thank you.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:09:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
E E Keliipuleole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 10, 2025

Re: HB1307 HD1

A‘ole. I do not support this bill at all. Geothermal development on any island below or above surface within the archipelago of Hawaii nei is not good. It is *sacrilegious*.

Furthermore, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands mandate is not, I repeat, NOT to explore the possible development of geothermal energy. Their mandate has not been fulfilled to date and until then, \$20 million of taxpayers hard earned money should not be expended for this endeavor.

Proper scientist(s) that are community bound and part Hawaiian should be consulted. And, if they were, the resounding answer to this question is A‘OLE; NO! Unless the Goddess Pele decides the disturb, then any possible development of geothermal energy should not be done.

mahalo no kou ‘ae ‘ana i kēia hō‘ike i kākau ‘ia

E E "Puna" Keliipuleole

email: paliku7@yahoo.com

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:25:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serafina Gajate	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Conflict of Interest

- **East Hawai'i DHHL Commissioner Micheal Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)—a clear conflict of interest** in supporting this bill.

Environmental Racism

- Systemic exploitation of Native Hawaiian lands while communities suffer from environmental degradation.

Corporate Welfare

- This bill directs **\$20 million in taxpayer dollars** for geothermal exploration that ultimately benefits **Ormat Technologies Inc.**, a **\$3.8 billion foreign corporation** traded on the NYSE (**Ticker: ORA**).

Everything on Hawaiian Homelands... Except Hawaiians

- DHHL lands have been used for **cell towers, shopping malls, car lots, churches, airports, wastewater treatment plants, wind & solar farms, military bases, and wealthy ranch leases**, while **30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist**.
- Now, they want to **add geothermal** to the list while kanaka are still waiting for their land awards.

Bait Tactics

- Since 1921, every project was "**the project**" that would finally put kanaka on their land. Yet the **waitlist remains at 30,000** while DHHL feeds another "solution" to the public that promises infrastructure but fails to deliver.

Greenwashing at the Expense of Kanaka Health

- **Geothermal is not "clean energy"**—it's greenwashing.
- **Geothermal steam contains toxic hydrogen sulfide**, which can cause:

- Vomiting
- Vertigo
- Loss of coordination

Puna Geothermal Has an Ongoing History of Lawsuits

- Several lawsuits are in various stages, **some heading to the Supreme Court.**

Environmental & Safety Concerns

- **Toxic Emissions:** Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) has a history of toxic emissions, including:
 - **A blowout in 1991**
 - **A hydrogen sulfide violation in 2016**
- **Water Pollution & Hazardous Waste:** Geothermal energy can contaminate groundwater and requires careful waste disposal.
- **Cultural Desecration:** Some Native Hawaiians believe geothermal extraction violates **sacred land** and desecrates Pele.
- **Land Subsidence:** Geothermal activity can lead to dangerous shifts in the land.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:11:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I apose bill HB1307, I apose the desecration of Hawaiian lands for the purpose of geothermal gases.

sue Alana

92-1250#68 Makakilo Dr.

Kapolei Hi. 96707

808-551-1656

HB1307

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in **OPPOSITION FOR HB1307** for the following reasons;

In all due respect for DHHL.

The appropriation of **\$20 million for geothermal exploration** on Hawaiian home lands presents an **opportunity for renewable energy growth** but also comes with **legal, cultural, and environmental challenges**.

1. **Transparent community engagement** to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries have a say in the project.
2. **Strict environmental oversight** to mitigate risks associated with drilling and land use.
3. **Legal compliance** with the **Hawaiian Homes Commission Act** and **state/federal regulations**.
4. **Fair distribution of economic benefits** to ensure Native Hawaiians directly benefit from any future energy development. **FOR ALL INCOME BRACKET WHICH WILL NOT HAPPEN!!!**

Environmental Concerns of Geothermal Exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands

The development of **water wells for geophysical investigation and geothermal exploration** raises several environmental concerns. While geothermal energy is often seen as a **clean and renewable resource**, the process of exploration and drilling can have **negative environmental impacts**.

A. Groundwater Depletion & Contamination

- **Drilling geothermal wells requires large amounts of water**, which could put stress on **local aquifers**.
- If not properly managed, water extraction for drilling may lower **water table levels**, affecting drinking water supplies and agriculture.
- There is a risk of **toxic contamination**, as drilling can introduce **heavy metals, arsenic, or hydrogen sulfide** into groundwater.

B. Thermal & Chemical Pollution

- Geothermal fluids can be **hot and mineral-rich**. If released into nearby water bodies, they can cause **thermal pollution**, harming aquatic life.
- **Chemical leaching** from geothermal fluids can introduce **salts and heavy metals** into the environment.

C. Effects on Nearby Ecosystems

- Water extraction and disposal could **disrupt local ecosystems**, especially in areas with **endemic Hawaiian species**.
- **Changes in groundwater flow** could impact nearby wetlands, streams, or coastal areas.

2. Seismic Activity & Land Stability

A. Induced Seismicity (Man-Made Earthquakes)

- **Geothermal drilling has been linked to increased seismic activity** in some regions.
- Injecting water into the ground (a process used in geothermal energy extraction) **can trigger small to moderate earthquakes**.
- **Hawaii is already seismically active** due to volcanic activity, so any additional risk of induced earthquakes must be carefully studied.

B. Land Subsidence & Sinkholes

- Removing large amounts of **geothermal fluids** can cause **land subsidence** (gradual sinking of the ground).
- In extreme cases, this could lead to **sinkholes** or structural damage to nearby homes and
- infrastructure.

3. Air Quality Concerns

A. Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Emissions

- **Geothermal wells often release hydrogen sulfide**, a gas with a strong "rotten egg" odor.
- At **high concentrations, H₂S is toxic** and can cause respiratory issues, headaches, and nausea.

B. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) & Methane (CH₄) Emissions

- While geothermal energy has lower carbon emissions than fossil fuels, **some CO₂ and methane can be released** during drilling.
- The extent of emissions depends on the **depth and composition of the geothermal reservoir**.

4. Impact on Native Hawaiian Ecosystems & Cultural Sites

A. Disruption to Endemic Wildlife & Plants

- Hawaiian home lands may include **fragile ecosystems** with **endangered native species** like the 'ōhi'a lehua tree or native birds.
- Construction, drilling, and infrastructure development could lead to **habitat destruction and species displacement**.

B. Potential Desecration of Sacred Lands

- Many Native Hawaiians view **volcanic activity and geothermal energy as connected to Pele**, the Hawaiian goddess of fire and volcanoes.

- Past geothermal projects in Hawaii, such as Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV), have faced strong opposition due to **cultural and spiritual beliefs**.
- If geothermal exploration takes place on lands with cultural significance, there could be **protests, legal challenges, and community backlash**.

5. Waste Disposal & Toxic Byproducts

A. Geothermal Brine & Mineral Waste

- Geothermal wells produce **brine (salty water with dissolved minerals)**, which must be disposed of properly.
- If brine leaks into **soil or water sources, it can be toxic to plants and animals**.

B. Radioactive Elements & Heavy Metals

- Some geothermal reservoirs contain **trace amounts of radioactive elements** (such as uranium and thorium).
- **Heavy metals like lead, arsenic, and mercury** may also be brought to the surface.
- Byproducts can **contaminate soil and water**, leading to **long-term environmental damage**

While **geothermal energy** has the potential to support **Hawaii's clean energy goals**, the **environmental risks must be carefully managed**. **Water depletion, seismic activity, air pollution, and cultural site disruption** are all valid concerns.

Sources:

nepis.epa.gov

[Subsurface Environmental Assessment for Four Geothermal Systems](#)

[The environmental effects to be considered are potential groundwater pollution, subsidence and induced seismic events, which in turn may affect the ecology ...](#)

ililani.media

[Hawai'i Geothermal Heats Up: Environmental Review & UH Thesis](#)

[August 1, 2019 — Thermal Power prepared an Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) in 1987 and then sold the facility to PGV. The EIS identified “effects on the ...](#)

dlnreng.hawaii.gov

[\[PDF\] environmental impact analysis - potential geothermal resource areas](#)

[September 14, 2010 — One of the most serious potential impacts of geothermal energy development in Hawaii is the disruption of native forest. Air pollution and groundwater ...](#)

tandfonline.com

[Native Hawaiian opposition to geothermal energy development](#)

[This article proposes that the conflict over geothermal energy development represents two belief systems holding opposing views of the environment.](#)

files.hawaii.gov

[\[PDF\] 2023-05-08-HA-DEIS-Puna-Geothermal-Venture-Repower-Project.pdf](#)

[May 7, 2023 — With this letter, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department hereby transmits the Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(Draft EIS\) for the Puna ...](#)

Mahalo,

_____/c/____

Cindy Freitas

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:08:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsaelynn Ka'u'ionalani Kobzi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou

O Chelsae kou inoa. No Pahala, Ka'u mai au. Noho au ma Kahuku, Ka'u , O Moku o Keawe.
Ku'u Mauna o Mauna Loa. Ku'u wai o Waiohinu .

Aloha Senators,

I as a mother of 3, and a Life long Kama'aina of Ka'u, I strongly oppose Bill 1307. Please do not approve geothermal studies on our very sacred Lands with many historical sites, native plants, animals and Kupuna iwi.

The audacity! Of the department asking for that much money while many die waiting for their RIGHTFUL share of land. This land belongs to the Hawaiian people. It is not for profit! I have family who have already experienced geothermal studies being held in Puna. They have nothing but bad experiences to share, we do not need this here, even if you think "you're helping us" by exploring "clean" energy. The desecration of our Aina will not be tolerated.

The people of Ka'u are fearless. We are resilient. We will not go down without a fight.

Please do not approve this Bill. This was not brought to the communities attention.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:58:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. No more desecration.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:15:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1307

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kehau Lucas and I strongly oppose HB1307. This is not about whether geothermal energy is good or bad—it’s about who controls its development and who truly benefits.

 **Conflict of Interest**

East Hawai‘i DHHL Commissioner Michael Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat), creating a clear conflict of interest. DHHL should be advocating for beneficiaries, not corporations.

 **Corporate Control Over Hawaiian Lands**

HB1307 directs \$20 million in taxpayer funds to Ormat Technologies Inc., a \$3.8 billion foreign-owned corporation. Geothermal energy on Hawaiian lands should serve Hawaiian beneficiaries, not private investors.

 **Hawaiian Homelands Should Benefit Hawaiians**

DHHL lands have hosted malls, airports, military bases, and energy projects, yet 30,000 beneficiaries still wait for land. Any development—including geothermal—should be led by and for Native Hawaiians, not outside corporations.

In closing, HB1307 allows outside interests to profit while Native Hawaiians remain landless. This isn’t just about energy—it’s about who controls and benefits from development on Hawaiian lands. Geothermal projects must prioritize Native Hawaiian leadership, health, and cultural integrity. I urge you to oppose HB1307 and ensure any development truly serves its beneficiaries.

Aloha ‘Āina,

J. Kēhau Lucas

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:22:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Consult the beneficiaries. DHHL is not a stand alone entity. It has a duty to Native Hawaiian people and must include them in decision making regarding their benefits.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:28:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Stowell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB1307. Geothermal is toxic and dangerous, haven't we witnessed the effects of hazardous chemicals released at POV and the illnesses in the community there? There are still nearly 30,000 Hawaiians waiting for land through DHH and the lands of Humu'ula have been earmarked for pastoral awards. There has been no beneficiary consultation which is a requirement of the Department of the Interior.

The most outrageous and shocking aspect of this is that you would seek \$20 million in taxpayer dollars exploring the possible development of geothermal on behalf of a multi billion dollar foreign corporation (Ormat). Then to see that the DHHL east Hawaii commissioner is also an employee of Ormat! What a blatant conflict of interest.

I, along with my ohana and community, are vehemently opposed to this toxic proposal.

Please oppose bill HB1307.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:09:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teleise Scanlan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Teleise Scanlan— kupa‘āina of Ka‘ū and Puna, wife of māka‘i of Puna, and mother of five boys. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1307.

This bill proposes to allocate \$20 million for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands without consulting beneficiaries—an outright violation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (1921) and Department of the Interior conditions. Hawaiian Home Lands have been historically misused for developments that fail to prioritize the needs of Native Hawaiians, while more than 30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist for land awards.

DHHL has failed to properly consult with its beneficiaries before pushing this bill forward. Hawaiian Home Lands exist to serve ****Native Hawaiians first****, not corporate interests.

The East Hawai‘i DHHL Commissioner, Micheal Kalekini, is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)—a direct conflict of interest. This bill paves the way for corporate profiteering at the expense of Native Hawaiians and our ‘āina.

Geothermal energy is not "clean energy"—it is a form of extractive industry that releases toxic hydrogen sulfide, which has been linked to:

- Respiratory issues
- Vertigo & nausea

- Loss of coordination

The 1991 blowout at Puna Geothermal Venture is just one example of the risks to the environment and public health.

- Hawaiian hawks (‘Io) are already under threat, and geothermal expansion in these areas increases their risk.

- The continued industrialization of Hawaiian Home Lands disrespects Pele, our kupuna, and the very land that sustains us.

For over a century, DHHL has prioritized everything but housing for beneficiaries—from military leases to commercial developments. Now, this bill claims that geothermal is the answer, yet history tells us otherwise.

I urge this committee to reject HB1307 and demand transparency, accountability, and true beneficiary consultation before proceeding with any geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands. Our ‘āina and people deserve better.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:48:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Napihaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:54:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this proposal to allow geothermal exploration on Humu‘ula/Pohakuloa, Kawaihae, and South Point.

Yours, Bianca Isaki

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:40:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee,

My name is Ekini Lindsey, and I strongly oppose HB1307 due to concerns regarding responsibility, health, environmental, and location factors. DHHL should re-examine its mission statement and prioritize addressing the needs of the hundreds or thousands of individuals on the waitlist before fantasizing in pursuing geothermal construction sites. Furthermore, Humu'ula, Kawaihae, and South Point are targets for desecration!!! I implore your consideration to cease this unnecessary atrocity and reflect on the damages that will affect both āina and the people.

Mahalo nui loa

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:47:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Keala and I strongly OPPOSE HB 1307 which appropriates funds to DHHL for water well development on Hawaiian homelands. There was no consultation with the people and I do NOT support drilling on Maunakea or any DHHL lands.

Mahalo for your consideration

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:22:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Hawai'i State Legislature

Aloha mai kākou,

I stand before you today to address a matter of great importance — the appropriation of funds for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for water well development and the exploration of geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands. Specifically, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the inclusion of any funding that supports the development of geothermal energy in our sacred lands.

‘A‘OLE PGV!! NO MORE GEOTHERMAL!

We are all aware of the destructive history of geothermal energy projects on Hawai'i Island, particularly the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV). The ongoing issues with PGV have shown us the devastating impacts such projects can have on our land, our water, and our communities. These ventures bring irreversible environmental harm, including the potential for contamination of water sources, destruction of our sacred spaces, and the disempowerment of Kānaka Maoli — undermining their right to live in harmony with their land.

Furthermore, geothermal energy projects are known to emit harmful gases, such as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), which is toxic to both human health and the environment. Hydrogen sulfide exposure can cause serious respiratory issues, headaches, and, in high concentrations, asphyxiation. Additionally, geothermal plants emit carbon dioxide (CO₂), which can displace oxygen and pose risks to human health in confined spaces. Alongside these gases, geothermal plants can release methane, ammonia, and trace amounts of heavy metals like mercury and arsenic — substances that contaminate air, water, and soil, further compromising the health of our communities and ecosystems.

The proposal to develop geothermal resources on Hawaiian home lands would only compound the ongoing harm. The lands of our people should not be used for experimental energy ventures that have repeatedly shown their harmful impacts. These lands are meant to serve and uplift Kānaka Maoli, not to be exploited for dangerous projects that threaten our environment and health. They must be protected.

Let us be clear: we must remove PGV from the islands and ensure that no new geothermal projects are allowed on Hawaiian homelands. The energy needs of Hawai'i must be met through sustainable, culturally responsible methods, not through projects that desecrate and destroy our land.

The legacy of colonization and the militarization of Hawai'i has already caused enough harm to our people and our environment. As a state, we now have an opportunity to right these wrongs, to demonstrate true respect for Kānaka Maoli sovereignty, and to protect the land and water for future generations. Geothermal projects, particularly those on Hawaiian homelands, have no place in this future.

I urge this body to remove any appropriations for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian homelands. The land and the water must be protected, and we must honor the sacredness of these places for the generations to come.

Mahalo for your attention to this critical issue.

Tara Rojas

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:55:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael moskowitz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state where solar energy is cheap and affordable. lets invest in personal solar for individuals not corrupt sacrilegious projects.

We dont need this. it is experimental could cause earthquakes and eruptions and is against Native Hawaiian respect for the Land. This is an example of waste fraud and abuse.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:59:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition to HB 1307**. This bill proposes allocating \$20 million for geothermal exploration on Hawaiian Home Lands without proper beneficiary consultation, violating both the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921 and conditions set by the Department of the Interior.

This bill raises serious concerns about the future of our ‘āina and the rights of Native Hawaiians. Geothermal development on Hawaiian Home Lands, particularly in areas such as Humu‘ula/Pōhakuloa, Kawaihae, and Ka Lae (South Point), represents yet another example of systemic exploitation of our lands while thousands of Native Hawaiians remain on the DHHL waitlist. Instead of using funds to place beneficiaries on their lands, this bill prioritizes corporate interests over the well-being of our people and environment.

Why Oppose HB 1307?

● Conflict of Interest

East Hawai‘i DHHL Commissioner Michael Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat), creating a clear conflict of interest. This bill directs taxpayer money toward geothermal exploration that would ultimately benefit Ormat Technologies Inc., a \$3.8 billion foreign corporation.

⚠ Environmental Racism

For decades, Native Hawaiian lands have been targeted for industrial projects while Kanaka Maoli communities bear the brunt of environmental degradation. Geothermal development will only add to this exploitation.

💰 Corporate Welfare Disguised as Clean Energy

Geothermal is being falsely marketed as "clean energy," but the reality is that it poses serious health risks. Toxic hydrogen sulfide emissions from geothermal steam have been linked to vomiting, vertigo, and loss of coordination, putting communities and workers at risk.

Endangered Species at Risk

The Hawaiian hawk (‘Io), already endangered, faces further threats from geothermal development in these areas.

Hawaiian Homelands Used for Everything—Except Housing Hawaiians

DHHL lands have been leased for shopping malls, cell towers, wind and solar farms, car lots, and military use, while 30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist. Now, geothermal exploration is being pushed forward with the same false promise that it will "help" beneficiaries—just like countless other projects before it.

Puna Geothermal’s Long History of Lawsuits & Violations

Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) has a history of environmental and safety violations, including:

- A **1991 blowout** that released toxic emissions
- A **2016 violation** for excessive hydrogen sulfide emissions
- Multiple lawsuits, some of which are ongoing or headed to the Supreme Court

Cultural Desecration & Land Subsidence Risks

Geothermal drilling is seen by many as a violation of sacred land and an affront to Pele. Additionally, geothermal activity has been linked to land subsidence and dangerous shifts in the landscape.

HB 1307 fails to prioritize the well-being of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, our environment, and the future of our ‘āina. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on efforts that truly support the needs of DHHL beneficiaries—ensuring they receive their rightful lands rather than facilitating further exploitation.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu Member

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:33:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caree	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1307 because much of the indiginous Hawaiian population is opposed to geothermal exploration and development on their Hawaiian Homelands, which most have yet to receive living access too. Allowing a foreign energy company to benefit off this land is unacceptable. This kind of development is also culturally inappropriate to those who respect the lava source as the creator and destroyer of this land. Geothermal energy extraction also leads to environmental pollution of the air with hydrogen sulfide, water pollution, and land degradation/shifts, making it an unsafe choice of alternative energy. Why waste millions of dollars exploring this option that the people oppose so vehemently? Word has it that the Hawaiian stakeholders of this land were not even consulted before the creation of this bill. How shameful. Please reconsider letting this pass.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:10:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Leina'ala Sleightholm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1307 HD1.

There was no consultation and if there is a request for those kind of monies, it could be put to better use that benefit beneficiaries, specifically those who have been on the waiting list for decades.

Another reason is that we should have learned after the devastation and harm Puna geothermal caused. There are lasting health effects because of the toxins/poisons.

J. Leina'ala Sleightholm

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 2:00 P.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Hearing on HB 1307 (Relating to The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands)

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair, Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (JHA).

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and respected committee members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 1307. My name is Mike Kaleikini, a life long Hawai'i resident and a long time resident of Hilo, Hawai'i.

I support the purpose and intent of this bill:

1. To provide follow-up funding for the next steps in the investigation, exploration, and identification of geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands.
2. Funding would be utilized to:
 - a. Hire consultants to help navigate the intricacies of geothermal development.
 - b. Collect geophysical data.
 - c. Develop water wells.
 - d. Drill slim holes at sites on Hawaiian Home Lands.
3. Ultimately, a commercial grade geothermal resource located on Hawaiian Home Lands, would provide the opportunity for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to garner much needed firm revenue. Revenues from a geothermal development on Hawaiian Home Lands would go a long way with executing the purpose and intent of the Hawaiian Homes Act 1920, which is to get Hawaiians back to the aina.

I appreciate the continued support from our State legislators for the Native Hawaiian community and want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Mahalo a nui loa.

Respectfully,



Michael L. Kaleikini
1134 Ainalako Road
Hilo, Hawai'i

I can be reached via cell phone at 808.936.8161.

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:59:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pohai Irvine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:36:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sunnie Kupahu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

EVERYTHING ON DHHL LANDS BUT HAWAIIANS That's the state of Hawaii's mission statement regarding Hawaii's host cultural. I am a resident of DHHL lands, and we have not received any information regarding exploring water wells. There has been no beneficiary consultation which is a requirement of the Department of the Interior (per the Hawaiian Home Act (1921) whenever a plan or action impacts beneficiaries a beneficiary consultation is required. The lands of Humu'ula have been earmarked for pastoral awards as outlined in the Mauna Kea legacy lands project. How many homes could you build for 20 million dollars? Knowing the health risks of geothermal energy as proven by the suffering of our neighbors in Puna, are you seriously considering placing geothermal plants in the residential area of Kawaihae? How many families/children and businesses would suffer from this ill-conceived plan? What is most insulting and unacceptable is that you would spend \$20 million of taxpayer dollars exploring the possible development of geothermal energy on behalf of a multi-billion-dollar foreign company (Ormat). That insult along with the obscene»» conflict of interest of the East Hawaii commissioner also being an employee of Ormat. Auwe! My 'ohana, myself and our community on Moku O Keawe are vehemently opposed to not only the taking of water but also the building of this toxic disaster on our lands. You paid over \$300 million for your dysfunctional, inept incompetence (Kalama VS. State of Hawaii). Do you really want to go here?

HB-1307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:39:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
manuel kupahu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Conflict of Interest

- **East Hawai'i DHHL Commissioner Micheal Kalekini is also the director of Puna Geothermal Venture (Ormat)—a clear conflict of interest** in supporting this bill.

Environmental Racism

- Systemic exploitation of Native Hawaiian lands while communities suffer from environmental degradation.

Corporate Welfare

- This bill directs **\$20 million in taxpayer dollars** for geothermal exploration that ultimately benefits **Ormat Technologies Inc.**, a **\$3.8 billion foreign corporation** traded on the NYSE (**Ticker: ORA**).

Everything on Hawaiian Homelands... Except Hawaiians

- DHHL lands have been used for **cell towers, shopping malls, car lots, churches, airports, wastewater treatment plants, wind & solar farms, military bases, and wealthy ranch leases**, while **30,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist**.
- Now, they want to **add geothermal** to the list while kanaka are still waiting for their land awards.

Bait Tactics

- Since 1921, every project was "**the project**" that would finally put kanaka on their land. Yet the **waitlist remains at 30,000** while DHHL feeds another "solution" to the public that promises infrastructure but fails to deliver.

Greenwashing at the Expense of Kanaka Health

- **Geothermal is not "clean energy"**—it's greenwashing.
- **Geothermal steam contains toxic hydrogen sulfide**, which can cause:

- Vomiting
- Vertigo
- Loss of coordination

Endangered Species at Risk

- The biggest threat to the **Hawaiian hawk ('Io)** is geothermal energy development.

Puna Geothermal Has an Ongoing History of Lawsuits

- Several lawsuits are in various stages, **some heading to the Supreme Court.**

Environmental & Safety Concerns

- **Toxic Emissions:** Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) has a history of toxic emissions, including:
 - **A blowout in 1991**
 - **A hydrogen sulfide violation in 2016**
- **Water Pollution & Hazardous Waste:** Geothermal energy can contaminate groundwater and requires careful waste disposal.
- **Cultural Desecration:** Some Native Hawaiians believe geothermal extraction violates **sacred land** and desecrates Pele.
- **Land Subsidence:** Geothermal activity can lead to dangerous shifts in the land.

Manuel Kupahu