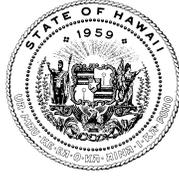


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
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*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
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KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
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Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

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

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TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 12:00PM IN CR 308

HB 871, HD 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

February 24, 2025

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **strongly supports** this bill which clarifies that Act 130, SLH 2024, which amended the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, (HHCA) takes effect on either the date of the Secretary of the Interior's notification letter that Act 130 does not require congressional approval, or on the date that the United States Congress approval becomes law.

DHHL appreciates that Act 130 was signed into law in 2024. However, DHHL recognizes that Section 4 of Act 130, SLH 2024, did not accurately note the necessary approval process for proper amendment of the HHCA. HB871, HD1 will correct this error and confirm the proper process for HHCA amendment pursuant to Act 130, SLH 2024. This legislative proposal was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and included in the Governor's Administrative Package.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.