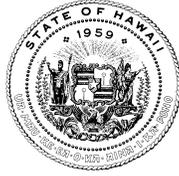


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON JANUARY 30, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 225

**SB 759, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

January 29, 2025

Aloha Chairs Chang and Richards, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **strongly supports** this bill which 1) adds the Chairperson of DHHL, or the Chairperson's designee, to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors and 2) amends quorum requirements for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors.

DHHL is excited about this potential opportunity for collaborative engagement and direct communication by way of participation as a voting member on the HHFDC's board of directors. The Chairperson of the HHC has a fiduciary duty to serve what is currently, approximately 29,000 native Hawaiians on the DHHL applicant waiting list, approximately 10,000 lessee beneficiaries residing on Hawaiian Home Lands, and a little over 200,000 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands. As such, inclusion of the HHC Chairperson/designee would add perspective and potency of substantive ideas, recommendations, and input in the best interest of the three different classes of beneficiaries to the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust. This bill was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

January 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of
S.B. 759
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION.**

Chairs Chang and Richards, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and San Buenaventura, and members of the Committees.

HHFDC has comments on SB 759, which adds the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), or the Chairperson's designee, to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors. It also amends quorum requirements for the HHFDC Board of Directors.

HHFDC recognizes that native Hawaiians suffer from longstanding socioeconomic hardships that include housing problems of affordability, overcrowding, and structural inadequacy. HHFDC appreciates its shared mission with DHHL in providing residents with affordable housing. However, as written, this bill could hinder the business of the Board by requiring that six (6) members constitute a quorum instead of the current five (5) members.

We are also concerned that this measure will make HHFDC's Board less community-oriented. Presently, two-thirds (six of the nine members) of the Board are public members and three are ex-officio government members. Adding another government member will dilute the input of the Board's public members and make the Board less

community-oriented, as was originally intended.

If coordination between HHFDC and DHHL activities is the intent of the measure, we suggest that it may be more effective for the DHHL Chairperson to meet regularly with HHFDC's executive director and HHFDC staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

SB-759

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:17:22 AM

Testimony for HOU on 1/30/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De MONT Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Hoomana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We continue to assert & **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the intent of this bill, like the similar bill last year. DHHL, by and through our Trust Beneficiaries deserve a voting voice when it came mes to decisions made within HHFDC. Please pass this important bill. Mahalo.