

# LATE SB 849 SD1

## RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

Reduces the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement of certain successors to lessees of Hawaiian home lands from one-quarter to one thirty-second.

## LATE TESTIMONY

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### **SB849**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 24, 2017 09:15AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faataatia Lauifi Jr	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**SB849**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaye K Lauifi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran , Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor BILL NO. SB849  
Friday, February 24, 2017 9 a.m. Conference Room 016 State Capitol

Aloha, my name is Stephanie Kapuamaeole Kalama Lauifi. I am a fourth generation homesteader in Kalamaula, Molokai. My great grandfather was Henry A. Wise who was one of the original homesteaders. My great grand Uncle was Senator John Wise who went with Prince Kuhio to the US Congress and worked hard to get the HHC Act passed.

Today I represent myself and my family as homesteaders. We are in support of this bill.

If you read the book written by Davianna McGregor, Aina Ho'opulapula: Hawaiian Homesteading, you will come to find out that this movement had started back in 1914 and how much work and compromise they had to do with the Big Five and the US Congress. Prince Kuhio wanted anyone with Hawaiian blood to have land and a term of 999 years, in his first version of the bill. In the second version, the US wanted 100% Hawaiian ancestry. In the third version, Kuhio came back with 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Hawaiian ancestry. The final version that was passed on July 9, 1921 and signed into law stating a one-half or 50% blood quantum as a qualification for a lot and a 99-year lease.

The original homesteaders received lands that were dry and barren, with no water. The original homesteaders persevered and self-sustained themselves and were so successful that after the trial period of 5 years, the HHCA was then extended to Keaukaha on the Big Island (which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Residential Leases and then to Ho'olehua, Molokai (the 1<sup>st</sup> Agricultural leases). I still have mango trees that are older than me and are still bearing fruit.

In a UH Publication written by Felix Keesing, Litt.D, in 1936, he states that at this present time there has been 3 cases where the lessee dies and the heirs do not meet the blood requirements. This problem we are facing today in 2017 is the same problem they faced. How many lost their homestead between 1936 and now. That is the fear that my family lived with when I was a young girl. If my Tutu passed, my mother who is 25% could not succeed her. So, my Tutu decided to transfer our lot to my Dad who was 50%. When my Dad passed, our lot was succeeded by my Mother (25% was passed for successorship). My Mother passed in 2011 and now I am the successor. So now, we live in fear once more. After 94 years of our family being on the land, it will end with me as my children do not meet the blood requirement of 25%.

So, this year we are going to celebrate our 94<sup>th</sup> year and we will be facing an uncertain future. We need to make sure that our families and our next generations have something that can be passed down to them. We work our land just as our Kupuna did, teaching the young about the land and how to malama what we have.

Let's support what Prince Kuhio initially intended in this act, to have Hawaiians on the land. Again, I support HB451 for our future generations and funding of DHHL to make sure that the Hawaiians that are on the wait list will be able to be awarded their lots and will be able to rehabilitate themselves as Prince Kuhio wanted.

Thank you,

Stephanie K. Lauifi

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### **SB849**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Lauifi	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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# LATE TESTIMONY

2/23/17

Aloha Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Committee Members

I STAND IN FULL SUPPORT of SB 849 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT. Reduces the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement of certain successors to lessees of Hawaiian home lands from one-quarter to one thirty-second. Including the SD1 loop-hole closure inserted by your Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I believe this will help to reduce the waitlist faster.

Hawaiian is the fastest growing race in Hawaii due to inter-racial marriage, yet many Hawaiians don't meet the current Hawaiian Home Lands (HHL) blood quantum criteria for lessees (50%) or successors (25%). In these financially trying times how do we keep our people from being displaced or worse yet, houseless?

SB 849 SD1 will allow ohana members to continue their residence in the ohana hale. Our Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole fought for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act so his people could return to the land. Prince Kuhio did not mean to displace one Hawaiian ohana for another, this Bill fulfills his intent and desire.

Mahalo for hearing SB 849 SD1 and allowing my supportive manao to be considered. PLEASE PASS SB 849 SD1 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE, effectively immediately.

Me ke aloha,  
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai  
HHCA Beneficiary  
Waianae Valley Homestead Lessee