

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING
HEARING ON MARCH 3, 2020 AT 1:45PM IN CR 016

**SCR 2/SR 2 STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ALLOW HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS TO BE DIRECT RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL
NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN
HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT**

March 2, 2020

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Chang, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home lands (DHHL) submits comments on these resolutions strongly urging the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the United States Congress to allow Hawaiian homesteads to be direct recipients of federal Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants (NHHBG) under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). DHHL appreciates the first be it resolved clause urging HUD and Congress to provide additional federal funds for the NHHBG under NAHASDA. However, the resolutions proposal to allow individual Hawaiian homesteads to be direct recipients of NHHBG wouldn't necessarily result in expediting the utilization of these funds or expand affordable housing opportunities for low-income families and individuals living on, or desiring to live on Hawaiian homesteads.

Utilization of NHHBG under NAHASDA requires strict compliance with many federal regulations and requirements including but not limited to eligible affordable housing activities in accordance with section 810 of NAHASDA and consistent with the Native Hawaiian Housing Plan as required under section 803 of NAHASDA, labor standards per section 805 of NAHASDA, environmental review as provided in section 806 of NAHASDA, annual performance reports as stipulated in sections 819 and 820 of NAHASDA, and quarterly federal financial reports. These requirements are met by a number of DHHL staff with specific expertise in our fiscal, land development division, and planning office beyond the staff specifically assigned to NAHASDA. It is important to note that DHHL has in the past solicited project and program proposals from eligible entities for NAHASDA funding through the community grant program. The expenditure of funds under this program were smaller in amount and at a slower rate.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 2, 2020

TO: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AL", written over the printed name "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 3, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 2, STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ALLOW HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS TO BE DIRECT RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this resolution is to strongly urge the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Congress of the United States to designate individual Hawaiian homesteads as direct recipients of Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants.

This measure is in the Maui County's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Council.

The Maui County Council supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i is experiencing a critical affordable-housing shortage and more funding is needed to support infrastructure development, home construction and rehabilitation programs, direct loans, and housing subsidies for Native Hawaiian families.
2. Designating individual Hawaiian homesteads in Hawaii to be direct recipients of Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants, in addition to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, could expedite the effective use of these funds and expand affordable-housing opportunities for low-income families and individuals living on, or desiring to live on, Hawaiian homesteads.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.

SR-2

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:18:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2020 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We'd like full autonomy, as we are not the uncivilized cavement that America labeled us as. We'd like to see our families returned to the lands that were deeded to them with allodial titles.

SR-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2020 11:56:43 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2020 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kenneth kudo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose. Native Hawaiians are not an indigenous tribe. They are aboriginal colonists who migrated to Hawaii, conquered, and stole the lands of the indigenous people already here.

SR-2

Submitted on: 2/28/2020 1:29:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2020 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SR-2

Submitted on: 2/29/2020 2:49:09 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2020 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: