

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



LATE TESTIMONY

MICAH A. KANE  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
KAULANA H. PARK  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN  
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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

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TESTIMONY OF MICAH A. KANE, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

ON HCR 271/HR 241,  
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO REQUEST AND PROVIDE FOR  
SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS.

April 1, 2009

Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands support the intent of HCR 271/HR 241; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue this at this time.

The most effective way for the legislature to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands this year is to fund our CIP requests for our water projects in Lalamilo on Hawaii Island and Leialii on Maui. Funding for these water projects allow our department to build more homes in these regions and offer opportunities for home ownership to hundreds of beneficiaries on our waitlists.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

**LATE TESTIMONY**

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mele Carroll, Chair

**RESOLUTION**

**H.C.R. NO. 271** *Urging the governor and the legislature to request and provide for sufficient funding for the Department of Hawaiian Homesteads*

**H.R. NO.241** (Same language as stated in H.C.R. No. 271)

DATE: Wednesday April 1, 2009  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Room 406 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY: I support H.C.R. NO. 271 and H.R. NO.241.

The language presented in the Resolution gives evidence [to our Hawaiian community as well as those that support our cause to make certain things pono] suggesting the Legislature as well as the Department of Hawaiian Homelands have ignored the highest law of our land, the Hawaii State Constitution.

I was taught by my parents, my school teachers and leaders of our community that we live in a society that is, for obvious reasons, ruled by a set of laws... and that those laws were set in place by persons elected by our community of our State for our benefit.

For reasons unknown, there has been no awareness, explanations, public inquiries, nor oversight to enact Article 12 for its intended purpose – to adequately fund the Department of Hawaiian Homes administrative and program costs primarily benefiting the beneficiaries on the wait-list. That list has quadrupled since the 1978 constitutional convention and now numbers 23,000 and counting.

I commend Chair Mele Carroll for initiating this resolution, suggesting there are a few good and courageous lawmakers within our Hawaii system that give us hope to make things right. Currently, within our Hawaiian community this unannounced, perceived government conspiracy, is as arrogant and insensitive and an insult to our people.

Given the history of our lawmakers ignoring article 12 suggesting the Hawaiians have no standing in their view of importance to this state, I see no reason why this stealth group of lawmakers would yield to this resolution. My prayers go out to Chair Mele Carroll and her supporting lawmakers. My hope is that this resolution is the starting point towards a successful Ho'oponopono for our people and supporters. We have suffered long.

Respectfully,  
Richard "Dickie" Alihilani Nelson III  
President, Oihi Lokahi O Ka Mokupuni O Keawe  
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