WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act in 1921, which was authored by Prince Kuhio Kalanianaole, and which dedicated 203,000 acres of land in Hawaii to benefit Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Act was and is to restore the cultural link between Native Hawaiians and the land and to provide Native Hawaiians the stability, financial equity, and economic self-sufficiency that comes from land and home ownership; and

WHEREAS, since the Act was signed into law, only about 9,700 homesteads have been resettled and nearly 27,000 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist; and

WHEREAS, the Federal and State governments have contributed to the underdevelopment of this important program by not acting in the best interests of Native Hawaiians and providing insufficient funding, inadequate planning, and mismanagement; and

WHEREAS, for the future of Native Hawaiians and their wellbeing, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands must fulfill its purpose by being a housing first department, and focus its funding, personnel, and other resources on providing housing for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to commit to pursuing an agenda of "housing first", using all its assets, moneys, and personnel to pursue an aggressive program of
homebuilding in all forms, including condos, multi-family, and single-family homes as appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to review its grant drawdown procedures and priorities to ensure that it responsibly and effectively spends Federal grant money toward its mission of providing housing for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations of the United States Department of the Interior, Governor, the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.