

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO IMPROVE ACCESS
TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS AND OTHER TRUST ASSETS TO ITS NATIVE
HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Hawaiian
2 Homes Commission Act in 1921, which was authored by Prince Kuhio
3 Kalaniana'ole, and which dedicated 203,000 acres of land in
4 Hawaii to benefit native Hawaiians; and

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

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12 WHEREAS, since the Act was signed into law almost one
13 hundred years ago, fewer than one hundred thousand homesteads
14 have been resettled and nearly twenty-eight thousand
15 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist; and

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17 WHEREAS, for the future of native Hawaiians and their well-
18 being, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands must fulfill its
19 purpose by providing housing and information on housing to its
20 native Hawaiian beneficiaries; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
23 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
24 Representatives concurring, that the Hawaiian Homes Commission
25 is urged to take the following actions in order to improve
26 access to Hawaiian home lands and other trust assets to its
27 native Hawaiian beneficiaries:

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29 (1) Work with beneficiaries and beneficiary organizations
30 to maximize the utilization of trust lands and assets
31 for the benefit of homestead communities, homestead
32 organizations, and beneficiary owned and controlled



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- 1 entities, including but not limited to leases of
2 homestead lands and licenses or operating agreements
3 related to the management of homestead assets;
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- 5 (2) Consult beneficiaries in person or via mail, email,
6 social media, or specific notification provided to all
7 beneficiary organizations prior to any disposition of
8 Hawaiian home lands or any improvements including
9 short or long term easements;
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- 11 (3) Refrain from establishing any additional criteria for
12 entering into a lease for Hawaiian home lands without
13 notifying beneficiaries through beneficiary
14 consultation, unless otherwise determined through the
15 promulgation of federal regulations;
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- 17 (4) For public or mercantile purpose, grant a license or
18 enter into a general lease, unless it conducts
19 beneficiary consultation;
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- 21 (5) Notify beneficiaries through beneficiary consultation
22 of any interest or other earnings that may be credited
23 to and deposited into the Hawaiian Home Operating Fund
24 or Hawaiian Home Receipts Fund;
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- 26 (6) Provide quarterly reports to the Legislature and
27 beneficiaries that includes data on the inventory of
28 formerly leased properties and disposition status of
29 homestead properties and improvements under the
30 control of the Department;
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- 32 (7) Post and maintain the listing of the formerly leased
33 properties on its website and conduct auctions of
34 properties to the waitlist at least twice per year;
35 and
36
- 37 (8) Negotiate with homestead association governed water
38 agencies to maintain water systems, including water
39 billing, prior to other service providers; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
42 Lands is requested to submit a report of its findings and



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1 recommendations regarding its efforts to improve beneficiary
2 access to Hawaiian home lands and other trust assets, including
3 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
5 2021; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
9 Hawaiian Homes Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

