

HB-1362

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:01:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

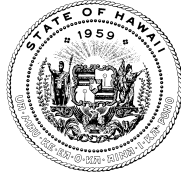
| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis L. Neves | Hawaiian Homes Commissioner-Kauai | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this measure expanding sewer systems to our homestead communities. My concern is the condition and management of the treatment plant. Additionally, the community should not be burdened with charges for hook up fees. Many of the residents are Kupuna and on limited incomes.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho 'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho 'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho 'opulapula Hawaii

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON JANUARY 31, 2025 AT 2:00PM IN CR 325

HB 1362, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

January 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

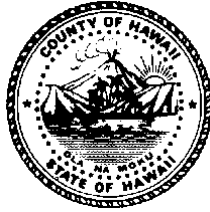
The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this bill which appropriates funds to DHHL to expand the sewer network and lines within and throughout the Keaukaha homestead.

Approximately 2,500 cesspools exist on Hawaiian Home Lands and majority of which are ranked as priority level 1 or priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected to a sewerage system. DHHL understands the urgency to complete these conversions and connections before the year 2050.

The funding in this measure is vital to the Keaukaha homestead community and would help to protect the environment surrounding Hawaiian Home Lands in East Hawaii. DHHL has made the first attempt to install new sewer infrastructure with the Desha Avenue Phase 1 project. DHHL would like to expedite work by installing new sewer lines in separate phases but would seek an estimated \$8 million for the required survey and inspections of the infrastructure needed to expand and make necessary upgrades to our century old homestead. The design work to master plan a gravity-flowed sewer network can accommodate the majority of homes in Keaukaha with a few exceptions where homes are situated below street level and may require lift pumps. This plan is to assist the county with cesspool closures and get many of our older homes upgraded while finding ways to protect the water surrounding Keaukaha.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Merrick Nishimoto
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 30, 2025

Testimony by
C. Kimo Alameda, Mayor, County of Hawai'i

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1362, which appropriates funding to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for the expansion of the sewer network in the Keaukaha Homestead in Hilo, Hawai'i.

As one of the earliest Hawaiian Home Lands communities, Keaukaha plays a vital role in preserving Native Hawaiian culture and providing housing opportunities for beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. However, the community's reliance on cesspools presents a significant environmental and public health risk. According to the Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool, cesspools in Keaukaha are classified as Priority Level 1—indicating the highest potential for harm due to their proximity to sensitive ecosystems, including coral reefs and drinking water aquifers.

Expanding sewer infrastructure in Keaukaha is essential for protecting public health, preserving natural resources, and supporting Native Hawaiian homesteaders. The proposed allocation of \$6,000,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 represents a crucial investment in environmental sustainability and the well-being of Native Hawaiian families. By passing this bill, the legislature will reaffirm its commitment to fulfilling the state's obligations under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and addressing long-standing infrastructure deficiencies in DHHL communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB1362 and advance this much-needed project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1362

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:15:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Leona Leialoha | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill for our Keaukaha residences!

mahalo nui

HB-1362

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:05:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Marion K A Kapuniai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: Treatment System just outside of Keaukaha Homestead which serves Hilo is in disrepair - Yes, include improvement within the Keaukaha Homestead, also. Thank you, M Kapuniai

HB-1362

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:51:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| W. Mapuana Waipa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB1362.

Mahalo Nui

W. Mapuana Waipa

Keaukaha, HI