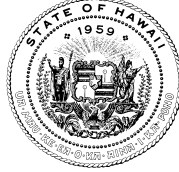


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

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



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 Hawai'i

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 871, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

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 clarifies that Act 130, SLH 2024, which amended the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, (HHCA) takes effect on either the date of the Secretary of the Interior's notification letter that Act 130 does not require congressional approval, or on the date that the United States Congress approval becomes law.

DHHL appreciates that Act 130 was signed into law in 2024. However, DHHL recognizes that Section 4 of Act 130, SLH 2024, did not accurately note the necessary approval process for proper amendment of the HHCA. HB871 will correct this error and confirm the proper process for HHCA amendment pursuant to Act 130, SLH 2024. This legislative proposal was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and included in the Governor's Administrative Package.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HB-871

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:12:26 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: All amendments to the HHCA does properly demands DOI review and to determine whether the amendment requires Congressional approval, first of all. Thank you, M Kapuniai

[HB871](#)

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in SUPPORT for HB871

Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, increases the loan limit for direct loans provided by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to seventy-five percent of the maximum single residence loan amount allowed in Hawaii by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Federal Housing Administration (FHA). This is a change from the current limit of fifty percent as outlined in section 215 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended.

By increasing the loan limit to 75%, the Act aims to provide greater financial support to Native Hawaiians seeking to build or improve homes on Hawaiian Home Lands, allowing them to access larger loans that align more closely with the FHA's standards for single residence loans.

Mahalo,

_____/s/_____
Cindy Freitas