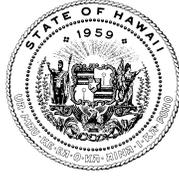


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawai'i*

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
DECISION MAKING ON FEBRUARY 19, 2025 AT 10:02AM IN CR 211**

**SB 1553, SD 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 18, 2025

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **strongly supports** this bill which appropriates funds to DHHL to purchase a parcel of land identified as tax map key: (1) 9-1-013-025.

There is a large hangar located on the land that was used by the military to maintain and store large military planes. Under the Base Realignment and Closure Act, the hangar was closed and transferred to the State of Hawaii. The hangar was acquired and is now owned by the University of Hawai'i (UH). UH unsuccessfully used it for an aviation program that proved unpopular and subsequently abandoned. The hangar is temporarily being used by the Honolulu Fire Department and Honolulu Police Department to house and operate their helicopters until their permanent hangar is finished on Lagoon Drive.

With the cost of housing averaging over \$1 million per house, DHHL has sought to explore other approaches to making housing more affordable. One way is the use of this site for offsite construction as is done on the U.S. continent, and to a limited extent here in Hawai'i. With the acquisition of the hangar at Kalaeloa and conversion of the facility into an offsite construction facility, DHHL will be able to supply housing to its beneficiaries quickly at a significantly lower cost. Time is of the essence because many applicants on the DHHL waiting list died while waiting for a homestead lease lot as is reflected and acknowledged in the State vs. Kalima case.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-1553-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 4:29:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
De MONT Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Hoomana Pono, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE continue to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** DHHL in it's endeavors to improve the lives of Trust Beneficiaries, pursuant to the HHCA of 1920, as amended 1921.

Please pass this bill.

**SB-1553-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:36:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:02:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.