

SB-695-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:21:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805



TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
DECISION MAKING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019 AT 10:05AM IN CR 211

SB 695, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

February 19, 2019

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 695, SD1. This bill requires the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to digitize its applicant, beneficiary, and lessee records. The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request. DHHL requests that this Committee change the source of the appropriation from DHHL vacancy savings to the general fund that would be in addition to the Governor's Executive Budget request.

DHHL began implementing an electronic document imaging system in June 2013 that converted applicant and lessee records to digital media. Staff training is planned over the next few months to allow neighbor island offices to have access to DHHL's electronic record system. This will significantly improve accessibility for DHHL's neighbor island offices and inquiry response times. The primary purpose of the document management system is to easily store, access, track, and share documents from a secure and central location. The goal is to provide better customer service and create a more efficient use of staff time. It will also allow for the preservation of the original documents.

DHHL will also launch a new Contact Center to improve the beneficiary experience and agency efficiency. The Contact Center will utilize two platforms, which will function as a database management tool with case tracking mechanisms and assist in call response times to beneficiaries.

Finally, DHHL is in the beginning stages of looking to integrate GIS into its day-to-day operations. These existing efforts that are underway should begin to address what is requested in this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

LATE

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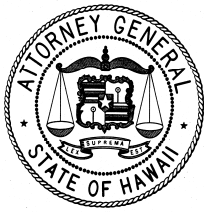
Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:44:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Gilbreath	Testifying for Hawaiian Community Assets	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization is the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency. The vast majority of our native Hawaiian clients who are eligible to reside on Hawaiian Home Lands utilize email as a source of communication. As we see younger native Hawaiian beneficiaries come through our doors, we recognize this is the preferred way of communicating. It is time to bring the Hawaiian Home Lands process up-to-date and digitize its records.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 695, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 **TIME:** 10:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY (for more information, call Craig Y. Iha or Jason W. Hirata, Deputy Attorneys General, at 587-2978)

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill.

This bill directs the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to digitize its beneficiary waiting list and other related data. Section 3 of the bill makes appropriations out of the vacancy savings of DHHL to fund the digitization project.

Requiring an agency's vacancy savings – in other words, the operating funds that are unspent due to position vacancies – to be spent in a certain manner violates the separation of powers doctrine. Article V, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution places all principal departments and their functions under the Executive branch of government. Discretion to budget and expend funds appropriated by the Legislature is one such executive function. Requiring an agency to expend vacancy savings in a certain manner restricts the agency's ability to administer appropriated funds and, therefore, violates the separation of powers doctrine. *See, e.g., Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO v. Florio*, 617 A.2d 223, 235 (N.J. 1992) (administration of funds once appropriated is an executive function). To address this concern, we recommend amending section 3 of the bill by making a separate general fund appropriation to pay for the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.