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WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

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

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 23, 2021 AT 2:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SB 717, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

March 23, 2021

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this bill that requires DHHL to digitize its applicant, beneficiary, and lessee records and make the digital database available for use no later than 7/1/2022.

DHHL began implementing an electronic document imaging system in June 2013 that converted applicant and lessee records to digital media. Staff training began in 2019, and the neighbor island offices have access to DHHL's electronic record system. This significantly improved accessibility for DHHL's neighbor island offices. 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. This existing system can always be improved if additional resources are available as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



March 17, 2021

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Testimony SUPPORTING SB 717, SD 1

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 717, SD 1, requiring the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to digitize its records by July 2022.

Although DHHL has begun digitizing some of its records, much more digitization is required in order to quickly and accurately respond to beneficiaries. Currently documents are stored at multiple locations. They need to be stored in one database that staff can quickly access to ascertain the status of applications, successor details, and similar information.

It would be helpful for beneficiaries to be able to access their own records as well. Then they can check their status on their own and reserve their contact with DHHL staff for questions or to inform them of changes or errors.

Digitization will help DHHL to become more efficient in-house as well as serve beneficiaries in a more expedient manner. We SUPPORT the digitization of all of DHHL's records.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka mahalo nui,

JUANITA MAHIENAENA BROWN KAWAMOTO, Chair

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-717-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:45:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb717 sd1 hd1