

Kānaka Council Moku ō Keawe

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LATE TESTINONY

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair Rep. Pono Chong, Vice Chair

DATE:

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

TIME:

10:45 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON HB 1489 Relating to Kanaka Village On DHHL For Na Kanaka Homeless

Ano ai kakou,

My name is Kale Gumapac, Alaka'i for Kanaka Council Moku O Keawe and we strongly support HB 1489. I am a beneficiary on DHHL's waiting list since 1982 and born and raised on DHHL Lands in Waimanalo since 1951. I live in Puna on the Island of Hawai'i and I believe that I have life long experience to speak on this matter.

The idea of a self-sustainable Kanaka Village is not a novel idea. After all our ancestors lived with the understanding of malama kakou and we are finally beginning to understand the olelo noeau of "ka wa mahope" (facing the future is understanding what happened in the past) or are we? The practical value of history is film of the past that runs through the projector of today and on to the screen of tomorrow.

This pilot project should be the first of many on each island. We need to look at this project from the eyes of na kupuna with all of the resources from the past, present and future to build, maintain and sustain this Kanaka village. Our kupuna were intelligent and fascinating people who made use of every resource available to them. We should do the same

> Malama aina, Kale Gumapac, Alaka'i