

MAR 13 2013

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONSIDER  
BUILDING AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING THAT COULD BE USED FOR  
TRANSITIONAL, PERMANENT, OR RENT-TO-OWN HOUSING FOR  
HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

1 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the issue of  
2 affordable housing came to the forefront of people's minds due  
3 to rising home prices driven by a period of unprecedented  
4 economic growth in the State; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, whenever the supply of available housing is less  
7 than the demand, low and moderate income housing is often  
8 difficult to secure; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, in these housing markets, land values often  
11 outpace the capacity of incomes to keep up, making it difficult  
12 or costly to increase housing supply at rents or prices  
13 affordable to consumers at income ranges below the local  
14 average; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the inability to easily find an affordable place  
17 to live can cause distress among families and individuals; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, urban planners have noticed other negative effects  
20 on a community's overall health where there is a lack of  
21 affordable housing, including scarcer low-cost labor and  
22 increased demands on transportation systems; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, other studies and articles focused on United  
25 States cities have also been able to link the parallel trends of  
26 housing cost increases and declines in enrollment at local  
27 schools; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a severe affordable housing  
30 shortfall, with many individuals residing in long-term shelters  
31 because no permanent affordable housing is available; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Homeless Service Utilization  
34 Report, around twenty-seven percent of those using shelter or



1 outreach programs are native Hawaiian or part native Hawaiian;  
2 and  
3

4 WHEREAS, homelessness becomes a revolving door for  
5 individuals and families because of a myriad of socioeconomic  
6 problems they are mired in, including unemployment and low  
7 incomes, substance abuse, and chronic health problems; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, if the cycle of homelessness is going to be  
10 broken, we need to develop innovative housing solutions that  
11 provide homeless individuals and families with stable housing;  
12 now, therefore,  
13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,  
16 that this body urges the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to  
17 consider building affordable rental housing for homeless native  
18 Hawaiians; and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that living in affordable rental  
21 housing on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' lands would  
22 not remove individuals from the waiting list for Hawaiian Home  
23 Lands housing; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian  
27 Homes Commission.  
28  
29  
30

OFFERED BY:

*Elizabeth Chun Oakland*  
*Brian H. H. H.*  
*[Signature]*

