SB 2868

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI 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 JOINT COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND JUDICIARY AND LABOR

IN SUPPORT OF

SB 2868 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

February 8, 2016

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro, Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this Administration bill that amends Section "§209. Successors to Lessees." of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, reducing to one-thirty second the blood quantum requirements for successorship to a Hawaiian Homelands lease.

The Department continues to receive requests from beneficiaries, particularly lessees in our older homestead communities, to reduce the blood quantum requirement for successors. As these communities age, the lessees with one-quarter Hawaiian blood are facing the possible loss of a homestead lease that has been within the family for several generations because their descendants lack the required blood quantum. This amendment will provide DHHL lessees with greater flexibility to retain homestead leases within their families.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair Mason K. Chock Gary L. Hooser Arryl Kaneshiro KipuKai Kuali'i JoAnn A. Yukimura



Council Services Division 4396 Rice Street, Suite 209 Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 3, 2016

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON

SB 2868, RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATION OF SUCCESSORS TO LESSEES UNDER THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT OF 1920, AS AMENDED Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Monday, February 8, 2016 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2868, Relating to the Qualification of Successors to Lessees Under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council, Chair of the Kaua'i County Council Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors.

The purpose of this measure is to lower the blood quantum requirement to one-thirty second Hawaiian for the lessee's relatives who would currently be eligible succeed to a lease including a lessee's husband, wife, children, grandchildren, brothers, or sisters. SB 2868 should also be amended to include a lessee's niece, nephew and cousins with one-thirty second Hawaiian to be eligible successors to a lease.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincere.

KIPUKAI KUALI'I Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

> Telephone (808) 241-4188 Fax (808) 241-6349 Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

AMK:aa

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HWNTestimony
Cc:	keao@me.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2868 on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM
Date:	Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:21:53 AM

Submitted on: 2/3/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Agnes Marti Kini	KAFarmers Hui	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the Marti-Kini Ohana, Anahola Kauai, and as President of the KAF HUI. We support this Bill in memory of Kahale Smith who took his life as he burned himself in the DHHL home which was in his Hawaiian wife's name...Kahale did not have the blood quantum needed by the DHHL and was force out. Instead, he took his life to make a powerful statement. Change is Imminent!!

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Brown	Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

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Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SB 2868 RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATION OF SUCCESSORS TO LESSEES UNDER THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED

Monday, 02/08/16; 1:15pm; Room 016

Aloha Madam Chair Shimabukuro, Chairman Keith-Agaran and members of the joint committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Judiciary and Labor. I am Annelle Amaral, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Regretfully, I am unable to testify personally today as I am a delegate attending the Native Hawaiian `Aha. However, I would like to add comments.

The Hawaiian Homestead Act and the first civic club were both the work of Prince Kuhio when he served as a Delegate to the US Congress. It has been a lingering ache that his intent to provide homesteads to Hawaiians without regard to blood quantum was prevented when the 50% blood quantum requirement was inserted into the bill.

Nearly a century later, this bill acknowledges Prince Kuhio's intent to put Hawaiians back on the land under very specific conditions. We note that the bill is carefully constructed to be as inclusive as possible, trying to minimize any harm. There is adequate land for all, and as we learned recently there should have been adequate funding. Hopefully those issues will soon be resolved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Contact: <u>Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net</u>

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies 46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205 Kane'ohe, HI 96744 Tel/Fax (808) 247-7942 Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director e-mail <u>Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com</u> Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

For hearing Monday, February 08, 2016

Re: SB2868 RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATION OF SUCCESSORS TO LESSEES UNDER THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED.

Lowers the required blood quantum to one-thirty second Hawaiian for the lessee's relatives currently eligible to succeed to a lease with onethirty second Hawaiian including a lessee's husband, wife, children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

In homage to Archie Bunker, this bill should be given the name "All In The Family." Its obvious purpose is to allow a family to keep a DHHL lease in the family even after the original lessee has died, and the spouse and children have died, etc. -- so long as the successor leaseholder has at least 1/32 Hawaiian native blood and is related to the original lessee from decades ago by blood or marriage. The only way to pry the lease away from the family is if the lease expires after the statutory period of 100 years. Indeed, we are approaching the 100th anniversary of passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, so in the next few years we will see leases in Papakolea (the first homestead) beginning to expire. Therefore we will probably soon see legislation automatically extending leases for an additional century, to keep them "all in the family."

How often do we hear that there are tens of thousands of racially certified 50% blood native Hawaiians who have been sitting on the waiting list for decades? Let's give them a lease instead of guaranteeing the inheritance of a lease by grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, cousins, etc. whose connection with Hawaiian culture and with the 'aina may be greatly attenuated or virtually imperceptible. The most obvious result of enacting this bill would be to permanently establish a hereditary elite caste among native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiians -- families who got a lease early in the history of DHHL would remain forever an elite group of ali'i while those who placed their names on the waiting list in later years remain consigned to the lower caste maka'ainana with no hope of moving up. People with as little as 1/32 Hawaiian native ancestry but who are blood relatives of existing lessees would have an insurmountable preference over the native Hawaiians of greater than 50% native ancestry who were the intended beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act but now find they have no hope of getting a lease because they belong to a family from the "wrong side of the tracts."

Many Hawaiians believe that the 50% blood quantum requirement in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act is terribly divisive, pitting highblood natives against low-blood Natives. It's often said that Prince

Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Territorial Representative of Hawaii who sponsored the HHCA, wanted the blood requirement to be set at 1/32, which in 1920 would have allowed virtually every ethnic Hawaiian to qualify (although I have not seen actual written evidence to support the legend that he proposed 1/32). Now that four more generations have occurred, Kuhio's rationale would need to be updated to say the quantum should be 1/512, to ensure that everyone with a drop of the magic blood is eligible.

But here's my view. I believe that 1/2 is too high, 1/32 is too high, 1/512 is too high, and even one drop is too high. The native blood requirement for a homestead lease on public lands should be zero. During the Republic and early Territorial periods Hawaii had a homesteading law that allowed any citizen of Hawaii, regardless of race, to select a vacant piece of public land, live on that land for a period of years while putting it to good use, and thereby acquire ownership of the land in fee simple. That perfectly fine race-neutral homesteading law fell by the wayside when the well-intentioned but hopelessly racist HHCA was enacted. So now we have a huge bureaucracy costing megabucks to administer in order to ensure that only people of the favored race can establish a homestead on public land; and that they can only lease the land but are denied the most secure way for a family to build wealth -- fee-simple ownership of land. What a shame!

Please defeat this bill.

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of lowering the blood quantum for Successorship from one quarter to one thirty-second for successors of Hawaiian Home Land Leases. I further believe there should be no quantum as long as you can prove lineal connection to the lessee.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HWNTestimony
Cc:	kappywhite808@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2868 on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM*
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:02:28 PM

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
charlie white	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/2/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/2/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Kanealii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support and urge you to pass the bill that lowers the required blood quantum to one-thirty second Hawaiian for the lessee's relatives currently eligible to succeed to a lease with one-thirty second Hawaiian including a lessee's husband, wife, children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters. Mahalo

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen N. Canto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. For generations my family, and many others have wanted to lobby for this to happen; and now for all the right reasons we are that much closer to a favorable outcome. Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of SB2868.

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Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HWNTestimony
Cc:	kaalab@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2868 on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM
Date:	Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:07:02 AM

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaala	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a native Hawaiian I am honored to have the opportunity to live on DHHL land. My concern is I could not qualify for the blood quantum needed neither could my wife. My wife is 48% Hawaiian which is not enough to receive a lease but enough to be handed down to her from her mother. My children are 24.8% Hawaiian not enough to receive the transfer. I ask you to pass this measure to allow my children a direct descendant of my wife to be allowed to stay on the lands awarded to my wife. Please pass this measure Mahalo

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Submitted on: 2/5/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Kahoano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support of this bill. I believe that lowering the blood quantum qualifications will increase the amount of services and opportunities provided to Native Hawaiians and their families.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HWNTestimony
Cc:	kpurdyavelino@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2868 on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM
Date:	Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:02:00 PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a 4th generation homesteader in Ho'olehua, my children are 5th on this land. My great-grandmother was one of the original homesteaders of Kalama'ula, Moloka'i later acquiring her own land in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. For the sake our kupuna who made the land livable and for the sake our keiki (children) and mo'opuna (grandchildren) who will continue to care for the land, please support our bill to decrease the blood quantum for successorship to 1/32nd or consider perpetuity for generations to come.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	HWNTestimony
Cc:	sk96792sk@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2868 on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM*
Date:	Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:38:17 PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Marion K A Kapuniai P. O. Box 6753 Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 February 5, 2016

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Hearing: Monday, February 8, 2016 1:15 p.m.

Conference Rm: 016 State Capitol, Hawaii

TESTIMONY ON SB 2868

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT

Reduces the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement of certain transferees and successors to lessees of Hawaiian home lands from one-quarter to one thirty-second.

I, a successor lessee to my husband's pastoral lease, and grateful steward of the 'aina, testify to **SUPPORT SB 2868, with amendments.**

Since passage of the Hawaiian Homes commission Act, by congress in 1921, many amendments have been made to improve the management of same, and to increase services and programs for its lessees and applicants. The proposed amendments to this bill allows for expanding opportunities to family members who have invested time, talents, resources, commitment and love for their 'aina, to continue the legacy initiated by their *Kupuna* or *Makua*. All family members invested; there was no distinction on how much Hawaiian Blood Quantum each member possessed per " the paper". Each contributed selflessly and has gained immeasurably.

I will note, here, that when farm lots or pastoral lots were awarded, the lessee accepted lands which were undeveloped, no infrastructure, (ranchers – no water, no fencing, no cattle), no training, no funding. The new awardees, no matter the age, accepted the challenge(s) and have persevered. And, we continue their legacy in working toward self-sufficiency and self-determination.

Passage of SB 2868 will fulfill a Guided Principle to be identified, *Families on the Land for Perpetuity* - Passage of SB 2868 will provide opportunity to retain homestead leases within their families. Passage of SB 2868 will have no negative effect on the applicants.

SB 2868 should be amended to include SECTION 208 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act which refers to transfer of lease by live lessees (they should have the same rights to succeed their lease as does deceased lessees as described in SECTION 209 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act). The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands should recommend an Administrative Rule which will not allow a lessee who has transferred his/her initial lease, to apply again, if they so choose to relinquish or "sell" their initial lease. I believe it is discriminatory to allow privileges to one set of lessee and not to another.

SB 2868 should be further amended at SECTION 3, at the end of the sentence, add if so recommended by the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

I believe the rules allow the Secretary of the DOI to determine whether ratification from Congress is necessary, when the recommended action "enhances the rights of the beneficiaries" of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, as amended. Having been a community leader, expanding the successorship base for all families was one of the primary goals to accomplish – working together, we can reach that long awaited goal.

We have identical kuleana – to SERVE and REPRESENT.

I appreciate this opportunity to participate!

Thank You, M Kapuniai, Waimea, Moku O Keawe

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Phone: (808) 936-0157 Email: duke@sandwichisles.net

Submitted on: 2/4/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Boteilho	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha I humbly ask for your support and vote of SB 2868. I reside on Hawaiian Homelands and this bill could enable me to become a successors with my grandparents lease. Mahalo

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Submitted on: 2/8/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha, I support the lowering of the blood quantum. Our families will be affected, please listen to the voices of the majority of the voters. Mahalo Nui Loa

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Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharronlee Joseph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senator Maile Shimabukuro Chair Committee on Hawaiian Affairs Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair Committee on Judiciary and Labor BILL NO. SB 2868 Monday, February 8, 2016 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 016 State Capitol

Aloha, my name is Stephanie Kapuamaeole Kalama Lauifi. I am a fourth generation homesteader in Kalamaula, Molokai. My great grandfather was Henry A. Wise who was one of the original homesteaders. My great grand Uncle was Senator John Wise who went with Prince Kuhio to the US Congress and worked hard to get the HHC Act passed.

Today I represent myself and my family as homesteaders. We are in support of this bill.

If you read the book written by Davianna McGregor, Aina Ho'opulapula: Hawaiian Homesteading, you will come to find out that this movement had started back in 1914 and how much work and compromise they had to do with the Big Five and the US Congress. Prince Kuhio wanted anyone with Hawaiian blood to have land and a term of 999 years, in his first version of the bill. In the second version, the US wanted 100% Hawaiian ancestry. In the third version, Kuhio came back with $1/32^{nd}$ Hawaiian ancestry. The final version that was passed on July 9, 1921 and signed into law stating a one-half or 50% blood quantum as a qualification for a lot and a 99-year lease.

The original homesteaders received lands that were dry and barren, with no water. The original homesteaders persevered and self-sustained themselves and were so successful that after the trial period of 5 years, the HHCA was then extended. Today, I have mango trees that are older than me and are still bearing fruit.

So, this year we are going to celebrate our 95th year and we will be facing an uncertain future. We need to make sure that our families and our next generations have something that can be passed down to them. We work our land just as our Kupuna did, teaching the young about the land and how to malama what we have.

Let's support what Prince Kuhio initially intended in this act, to have Hawaiians on the land. Again, I support SB 2868 for our future generations.

Thank you Stephanie K. Lauifi

Submitted on: 2/7/2016 Testimony for HWN/JDL on Feb 8, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilma Noelani Joy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 2868 to reduce the blood quantum for successor ship for Hawaiian Homestead. It will qualify my grandchildren as successors to my homestead.

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