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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

IN OPPOSITION TO

# HR 93 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REGARDING THE KULEANA HOMESTEAD PROGRAM

March 21, 2017

Aloha Chair Ing and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) respectfully opposes this resolution which requests that DHHL adopt administrative rules that mandate the establishment of the kuleana homestead program. As this resolution acknowledges, the kuleana homestead program is one of many tools available to DHHL, but it is not the only tool and should not be mandated above other options currently available to beneficiaries.

An evaluation of Non-Traditional Awards including the kuleana homestead program was recently completed. A brief history of the kuleana homestead leases awarded in Kahikinui as well as feedback from lessees and strengths and challenges of the kuleana program are provided in the report. Several recommendations are proposed in the report, the first of which is "reassessing the pilot Kūleana project before implementing others." Other recommendations involve creating financing options, providing funding and education, assigning staff, and improving communications. Given the recommendations in this evaluation, HR93 is premature and should be held or deferred.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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# <u>HR93</u>

Submitted on: 3/19/2017 Testimony for OMH on Mar 21, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# <u>HR93</u>

Submitted on: 3/18/2017 Testimony for OMH on Mar 21, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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