
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS TO COMMIT TO
PROVIDING HOUSING FIRST FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Hawaiian
2 Homes Commission Act in 1921, which was authored by Prince Kuhio
3 Kalanianaʻole, and which dedicated 203,000 acres of land in
4 Hawaii to benefit Native Hawaiians; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Act was and is to restore the
7 cultural link between Native Hawaiians and the land and to
8 provide Native Hawaiians the stability, financial equity, and
9 economic self-sufficiency that comes from land and home
10 ownership; and
11

12 WHEREAS, since the Act was signed into law, only about
13 9,700 homesteads have been resettled and nearly 27,000
14 beneficiaries remain on the waitlist; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Federal and State governments have contributed
17 to the underdevelopment of this important program by not acting
18 in the best interests of Native Hawaiians and providing
19 insufficient funding, inadequate planning, and mismanagement;
20 and
21

22 WHEREAS, the prevailing method of granting agricultural
23 lots or turnkey developments is a broken "one size fits all"
24 approach that ignores current economic realities, job markets,
25 and the varying needs of beneficiaries; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands continues to
28 operate a decade behind current housing and economic trends,
29 providing beneficiaries with unusable land, houses far away from
30 jobs and economic centers, and often failing to provide housing
31 or lots altogether; and
32



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1 WHEREAS, for the future of Native Hawaiians and their
 2 wellbeing, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands must fulfill its
 3 purpose by being a "housing first" department, and focus its
 4 funding, personnel, and other resources toward providing housing
 5 for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; now, therefore,

6
 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 9 of 2018, that the Department of Hawaiian Homelands is urged to
 10 commit to pursuing an agenda of "housing first", using all its
 11 assets, moneys, and personnel to pursue an aggressive program of
 12 homebuilding in all forms, including condos, multi-family, and
 13 single-family homes as appropriate; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian
 16 Homelands is urged to review its grant drawdown procedures and
 17 priorities to ensure that it responsibly and effectively spends
 18 Federal grant money toward its mission of providing housing for
 19 Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; and

20
 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
 23 Homes Commission, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Bureau of
 24 Indian Affairs, and the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

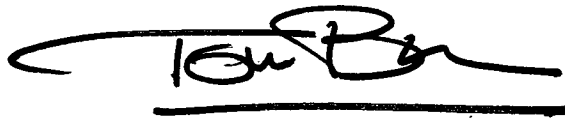
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Barr", is written over a horizontal line.

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