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GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 12:00PM IN CR 308**

HB 2208 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

February 6, 2020

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2208. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for the acquisition of land to be developed by DHHL for affordable housing units. DHHL supports this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

The Oahu Island Plan, which was adopted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in July 2014 after conducting beneficiary consultation, provides overarching guidance and recommendations for appropriate land uses at the regional level and examines infrastructure needs and opportunities from an island wide perspective, gauges beneficiary wants and needs, proposes areas for homesteading and non-homesteading uses, estimates costs for on- and off-site infrastructure, and based on these findings, identifies priority areas for homestead development, community use and income generation. Oahu has the largest demand for homesteading and only 4% of DHHL's landholdings. In light of this land shortage on Oahu, one of the recommendations of the Oahu Island Plan is to acquire new lands for homesteading. This bill would provide funding for the acquisition of land in East Oahu where DHHL currently has no landholdings to develop affordable housing units.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HB-2208

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:04:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa	Keaukaha Community Association	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair & members of the Fin Cmte,

I'm Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa the current President of the Keaukaha Community Association (KCA) a native Hawaiian as defined pursuant to HHCA, 1920 as amended and and a Corpus of the Trust WÄ“ are here to Comment Only on this measure because without a Beneficiary Consultation (BC) with the Befeciaries of the Trust the monies this Legislature is preparing if approved to expend on "**affordable housing**" in East Oahu WITHOUT THE TRUST CORPUS (PL 67-34, 42 stat. 108) giving any input as to what is considered affordable, will these Homes have DCCR, which is NOT A PROVISION of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 and a source of great consternation for those Homesteads in Kapolei struggling with those conditions on their Leases now. The Luck of any BC wÄ“ are unable to Support or Oppose this measure with the only suggestion to this body is to Deny the measure and return again to the Legislature only after the DHHL meets its requirements to the Trust Corpus and the "spirit" of Judge Casstingetti's FOFCOL that the DHHL CANNOT SERVE TWO (2) MASTERS I remain Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

For hearing Friday, February 21, 2020

Re: HB 2208 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN
HOMELANDS.

Appropriates funds to DHHL for the acquisition of land to be developed by
DHHL for affordable housing units.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 set aside 203,500 acres of public lands in the Territory of Hawaii exclusively for Hawaiians with at least 50% native blood quantum to be given leases for land parcels to build homes or have pastures for livestock. Since that time there have occasionally been land swaps between The Department of Hawaiian Homelands and other government agencies where both parties to the swap could more effectively use the lands for which they traded.

It would be unprecedented, probably illegal, and certainly immoral for State government taxpayer dollars taken from people of all races to be used to purchase land specifically to hand over to DHHL for the exclusive benefit of a subgroup of a particular racial group. It's bad enough that we have dozens of racially segregated ghettos scattered around our islands. We don't need to be creating new ones with tax dollars from the general fund.

There is one State agency which has hoarded more than \$650 Million in assets which it believes it is authorized to spend on racially exclusionary projects. If the bad concept in this bill somehow gets enacted, the legislature should first amend this bill to require that all the money for purchasing the land should come from the assets of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs rather than from the general fund.