



HB133
 RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
 House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 10, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB133, OHA’s 2023-2024 (FY24) and 2024-2025 (FY25) fiscal biennium budget proposal for beneficiary advocacy. **OHA respectfully requests the Committee’s support for OHA’s biennium request in its entirety.**

Since the establishment of OHA in 1978, the needs of OHA’s beneficiaries have grown amplifying OHA’s mandate as the principal public agency of the State of Hawai’i responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to the Native Hawaiian people. **OHA exists, now, to serve more than 680,000 beneficiaries, many of whom continue to suffer systemic inequities, disparate impact, and are disproportionately represented among the worst health, education, and other socio-economic conditions. OHA’s critical mission continues and the biennium budget request is summarized below in Table 1.**

Legislative Provision (Proviso)	Prog ID	FY2023-2024 (FY24)	FY2024-2025 (FY25)
Occupancy Ready	OHA 175 – Beneficiary Advocacy	\$500,000	\$500,000
Social Services		\$415,000	\$415,000
Education		\$615,000	\$615,000
Legal Services		\$600,000	\$600,000
<u>‘Āina</u> , Addressing impacts of Climate Change		\$500,000	\$500,000
<u>‘Ohana</u> Economic Stability		\$370,000	\$370,000
Total		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

Table 1. – FY24 and FY25 General Funds



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OHA worked with the State Legislature over the past decades to match appropriated state general funds in each fiscal biennium to support a portion of OHA's costs in advancing its critical mission. This biennium, OHA's request through SB205 is solely to support Program ID 175 – Beneficiary Advocacy (compared to prior biennium operational costs), through grants and contracts.

OHA via its FY24-FY25 budget construction process, will leverage state general funds as follows for each fiscal year:

- Occupancy-ready housing needs - \$500,000 General Funds, \$1,000,000 Trust Funds (as was approved in FY22-FY23);
- Social services - \$415,000 General Funds, \$415,000 Trust Funds;
- Education - \$615,000 General Funds, \$615,000 Trust Funds;
- Legal services and legal representation for OHA beneficiaries - \$600,000 General Funds, \$600,000 Trust Funds;
- Protection of 'āina (land), wai (water), and kai (sea), including addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience - \$500,000 General Funds, \$500,000 Trust Funds; and
- 'Ohana (family) economic stability - \$370,000 General Funds, \$370,000 Trust Funds.

In effect, OHA's biennial budget requests have continuously sought to make the most of state general funds by extending its reach and impact to as many beneficiaries as we possibly can. OHA endeavors this by matching state general funds with OHA trust funds, while further leveraging this combination of funds with community resources, both cash and in-kind.

It is because of this ongoing partnership with the State Legislature that OHA now wishes to emphasize the far-reach of our programs and services in meeting the needs of Native Hawaiians and even the general public. In the past, OHA has successfully leveraged general funds to multiply, nearly three times the original amount, in the areas of social services, and legal services and education – that is nearly three times the amount of individuals directly impacted from this critical funding source.

OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB133 for the betterment of conditions of the Native Hawaiian people. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of this immensely important matter.

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Submitted on: 2/8/2023 3:52:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please delete from this bill any appropriation of money from general funds.

According to OHA's most recent annual report: As of June 30, 2022, OHA's assets were 823 Million dollars. And OHA receives more than a million dollars per week additional, taken from new revenues received by the State of Hawaii. That's a huge cash stash, growing by leaps and bounds every year, set aside exclusively for members of one racial group, diverted from other purposes which would serve all Hawaii's people (including ethnic Hawaiians) regardless of race.

Furthermore, OHA asserts that it should be treated as an autonomous entity. If OHA wants to manage its own affairs separately, then OHA should pay autonomously and separately for what it does -- especially regarding "advocacy" i.e., political propaganda for the purpose of influencing public opinion and lawmakers on issues such as increasing she amount of ceded land revenues to be given to OHA, and enriching itself by changing the height limit on buildings in OHA's newly-named "Hakuone" lands.

OHA is by far the wealthiest agency in the state government, since other agencies are not allowed to carry forward a huge cash stash year after year after year. Make OHA pay its own way.