



Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice-Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
Friday, April 8, 2022  
1:00 pm  
Written Testimony Only

RE: **Strong Support of HB2511 HD1** - \$600M Appropriation to DHHL

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce in strong support of HB2511 HD2 SD1. As business owners who believe in strengthening our economy without hurting employees, communities and the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of HB2511 HD2 SD1.

A majority of our members are settlers and/or descendants of settlers in Hawaii. We recognize the role that large business interests played in the occupation of Hawaii and the displacement of Kanaka Maoli from their ancestral lands.

The unsustainable economic model established by the Big Five landowners continues today through unbridled real estate speculation and profiteering that lawmakers have failed to mitigate. Allowing settlers and foreigners to treat land solely as a commodity, further dispossesses Kanaka Maoli by keeping land unaffordable to purchase or lease.

If passed into law, HB2511 HD1 will appropriate \$600M to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and begin to redress the Legislature's past disregard for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, the Admissions Act and compact with the United States.

We hope the Hawaii Legislature "shall make sufficient sums available" to DHHL, fulfilling its constitutional kuleana to Kanaka Maoli, not just this year, but every year — until there is no waitlist and all beneficiaries have a home.

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<b>Hawaii Legislative Council</b>	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu	Elle Cochran Maui Surfboards Maui	Russel Ruderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu
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**HB-2511-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 8:10:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

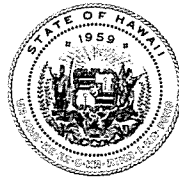
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. It's a matter of justice, equity, and doing what's right by the Hawaiian people. Too many Native Hawaiians have died on the waiting list for properties they were promised, that. have never materialized. Let's do what's pono, and get people off the waiting list and into the homes and lands they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

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

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
DECISION MAKING ON APRIL 8, 2022 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HB 2511, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

April 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill requiring DHHL to submit certain annual reports to the Legislature regarding the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund and appropriating moneys into and out of the fund for Hawaiian home lands lots, related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to the Department's beneficiaries. DHHL humbly asks this committee to pass this bill with the attached amendments.

DHHL appreciates this legislature for hearing our calls for funding and the commitment to fulfilling the state's obligation to our community. An investment of \$600 million toward the implementation of the HHCA would be a historic infusion of resources to address the needs of potentially thousands of beneficiaries on DHHL's Waiting List. DHHL continues to be open to all measures that would return native Hawaiians to the land, as intended by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.

As we embark on the next 100 years acknowledging the significance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the HHCA on July 9, 2021, this bill opens up opportunities for the over 28,000 beneficiaries and their families who continue to wait for the hope of Prince Kūhiō's promise to his people. Current costs for infrastructure development, borne by the Department, are in excess of \$150,000 per lot. In order to fulfill the needs of the current waitlist through this approach, DHHL would require over \$6 billion for infrastructure costs alone to serve its beneficiaries. This significant sum is separate and apart from costs for maintenance of existing lessee communities housing nearly ten thousand beneficiaries, upkeep of several utility systems, and other costs. Over the last decade, the Legislature has funded DHHL at levels higher than in years past, which has provided increased opportunity for DHHL to increase its reach. However, by conservative estimates following this approach, it will take DHHL at least another hundred years to meet the needs of its beneficiaries at current funding levels. This infusion of funds is expected to significantly address those who have been on the waiting list for decades. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

# H.B. NO. 2511

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. (a) The legislature finds that the mission of  
2 the department of Hawaiian home lands is to develop and deliver  
3 land to native Hawaiians. The public land trust, created by  
4 Congress through the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as  
5 amended (HHCA), set aside public lands to be used for the  
6 benefit of native Hawaiians.

7           As required by the Admission Act and as a compact with the  
8 United States, the State of Hawaii and the people of Hawaii  
9 adopted the HHCA as a provision of the Hawaii State Constitution  
10 and agreed to faithfully carry out the spirit of the HHCA for  
11 the rehabilitation of the Hawaiian race. These trust  
12 responsibilities remain to this day.

13           The legislature also finds that today, the department of  
14 Hawaiian home lands is responsible for the management of 203,500  
15 acres of trust lands, 9,959 homestead leases statewide, and  
16 44,096 lease applications. However, over 28,700 applicants  
17 remain on the waitlist for residential, agricultural, or  
18 pastoral leases.

\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_\_

1           The challenges faced by the department of Hawaiian home  
2 lands in fulfilling its mission are multi-faceted, and include  
3 but are not limited to:

4           (1) Availability of beneficiary-preferred land. The  
5           greatest demand, and subsequently, the longest  
6           waitlist, is for residential property on Oahu.  
7           However, the department of Hawaiian home lands' land  
8           holdings on Oahu represent only three per cent of its  
9           total lands;

10          (2) Cost of infrastructure. Preparing the department's  
11          lands for homesteading with adequate roads, water,  
12          sewer drainage, electrical, and other necessities  
13          requires a steady source of funding to ensure that  
14          environmental compliance, planning, design, and  
15          construction phases are coordinated; and

16          (3) Capital for mortgage financing. With one of the  
17          highest costs of living in the nation, department of  
18          Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries also face the  
19          challenging issue of obtaining capital for mortgages  
20          to build homes and reside on trust lands.

21           The legislature further finds that the revenues collected  
22 by the State as of fiscal year 2021 provide an unprecedented

\_\_\_\_.B. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1 opportunity to ensure critical long-term access to adequate  
2 funding for the department of Hawaiian home lands to meet its  
3 challenges.

4 (b) Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide  
5 funds to the department of Hawaiian home lands to pursue a  
6 multi-pronged approach to eliminating its waitlist.

7 Specifically, this Act:

- 8 (1) Requires the department of Hawaiian home lands to  
9 submit annual reports to the legislature regarding  
10 expenditures from the Hawaiian home lands trust fund  
11 and the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund and the  
12 number of beneficiaries removed from the waitlist for  
13 Hawaiian home lands through the use of these funds;  
14 [~~and~~]
- 15 (2) Appropriates moneys into and out of the Hawaiian home  
16 lands trust fund for Hawaiian home lands lots and  
17 related projects; and
- 18 (3) Appropriates moneys into and out of the native  
19 Hawaiian rehabilitation fund for down payment  
20 assistance and mortgage payment assistance to  
21 department of Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries.

22

\_\_\_**.B. NO.**\_\_\_

1 SECTION 2. The department of Hawaiian home lands shall  
2 submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty  
3 days prior to the start of each regular session that includes:

4 (1) An accounting of the expenditures from the Hawaiian  
5 home lands trust fund and the native Hawaiian

6 rehabilitation fund in the previous fiscal year; and

7 (2) The number of beneficiaries removed from the waitlist  
8 for Hawaiian home lands through the use of funds from

9 the Hawaiian home lands trust fund and the native  
10 Hawaiian rehabilitation fund.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000,000 or so

13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 with

14 \$487,614,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal

15 year 2022-2023 to be deposited into the Hawaiian home lands

16 trust fund and \$112,386,000 or so much thereof as may be

17 necessary to be deposited into the native Hawaiian

18 rehabilitation fund.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the Hawaiian home

20 lands trust fund the sum of \$487,614,000 or so much thereof as

21 may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for plans, design,

22 construction, land acquisition, and equipment for infrastructure

\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_

1 for the following projects; provided that the appropriation  
2 included in this Act shall not bind the department of Hawaiian  
3 home lands to conform to the executive budget execution policies  
4 and allotment process for the expenditure of funds:

5 1. East Kapolei IIC, Oahu

6 A project for approximately  
7 one hundred thirty new lots.

8 Total funding \$20,000,000

9 2. East Kapolei IID, Oahu

10 A project for approximately  
11 sixty-seven new lots.

12 Total funding \$22,444,800

13 3. East Kapolei IIE, Oahu

14 A project for approximately  
15 fifty-eight new lots.

16 Total funding \$24,460,800

17 4. East Kapolei IIF, Oahu

18 A project for approximately  
19 fifty new lots.

20 Total funding \$30,374,400

21 5. East Kapolei IIA, Oahu

22 A project for approximately



\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_

1                   three hundred new lots.

2                                   Total funding                                   \$5,000,000

3 6.     East Kapolei LDA3, Oahu

4                   A project for approximately

5                   two hundred fifty new lots.

6                                   Total funding                                   \$5,000,000

7 7.     Waimanalo, Oahu

8                   A project for approximately

9                   one hundred fifty new

10                  agricultural and residential lots.

11                                  Total funding                                  \$25,000,000

12 8.     Maili, Oahu

13                  A project for development and

14                  approximately two hundred eighty

15                  new lots.

16                                  Total funding                                  \$55,300,000

17 9.     Puunani Homestead Subdivision, Maui

18                  A project for approximately

19                  one hundred sixty-one new lots.

20                                  Total funding                                  \$13,200,000

21 10.    Puunani Homestead Phase 2, Maui

22                  A project for approximately

\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_\_

1                   one hundred forty new lots.

2                               Total funding                               \$32,000,000

3 11. Keokea-Waiohuli Phase 2B and Phase 3, Maui

4                   A project for approximately

5                   seventy-six new lots.

6                               Total funding                               \$27,834,000

7 12. West Maui Development - Leialii 1B, Maui

8                   A project for highway and

9                   parkway improvements, water

10                   development, and approximately

11                   two hundred fifty new lots.

12                               Total funding                               \$60,000,000

13 13. Hoolehua - Naiwa Agricultural Subdivision, Molokai, Maui

14                   A project for approximately

15                   fifty-eight new agricultural lots.

16                               Total funding                               \$30,000,000

17 14. Hanapepe Phase 2, Kauai

18                   A project for approximately

19                   seventy-five new residential lots.

20                               Total funding                               \$20,000,000

21 15. Laiopua Villages 1 and 2, Hawaii

22                   A project for approximately

\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_

1 four hundred new lots.

2 Total funding \$70,000,000

3 16. Kau Phase 3, Hawaii

4 A project for a water  
5 system and approximately  
6 twenty-five new pasture lots.

7 Total funding \$40,000,00

8 17. Honomu Phase 2, Hawaii

9 A project for approximately  
10 forty new subsistence  
11 agricultural lots.

12 Total funding \$2,000,000

13 The projects set forth in this section may include waste water  
14 lines and water transmission lines [~~for state projects~~]; repair,  
15 refurbishment, renovation, and new construction; ground and site  
16 improvements; and equipment and appurtenances for each project.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the native  
20 Hawaiian rehabilitation fund the sum of \$112,386,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for down  
22 payment assistance for an applicant on the waitlist or a

\_\_\_\_.B. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1 qualified relative of the applicant similar to the qualified  
2 relative of a lessee as referenced in section 208(5) of the  
3 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, who does not  
4 own a principal residence to purchase a principal residence in  
5 the State; mortgage payment assistance for the principal  
6 residence of an applicant on the waitlist; and other housing  
7 services as necessary to address the waitlist; provided that the  
8 appropriation included in this Act shall not bind the department  
9 of Hawaiian home lands to conform to the executive budget  
10 execution policies and allotment process for the expenditure of  
11 funds.

12       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
13 Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of this Act.

14       SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act, or the  
15 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
16 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
17 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
18 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
19 of this Act are severable.

20       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

\_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_

**Report Title:**

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds into and out of the Hawaiian home lands trust fund and the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fulfill its fiduciary duties to beneficiaries.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2511, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

**April 8, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2511, H.D. 2, S.D. 1: appropriates \$600,000,000 in general funds for FY 23 for deposit into the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund and \$600,000,000 in trust funds for FY 23 for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for Hawaiian Home Lands lots and related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to DHHL beneficiaries; and requires an annual report to the Legislature.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**HB2511 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

Friday, April 8, 2022, 1:00pm, Rm 211 & Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2511, HD2 SD1, which would appropriate \$600 million for use by qualifying Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries to acquire a residence, thus enabling the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to fulfill the State of Hawai'i's fiduciary duty to these beneficiaries.

The State of Hawai'i holds a fiduciary obligation to Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) beneficiaries, as part of its compact with the United States in exchange for admission into the Union and subsequently upon adopting the HHCA as a provision of the State's Constitution. The State later expanded its obligations to include enabling qualifying Native Hawaiians "to return to their lands in order to fully support self-sufficiency" and to support "the self-determination of Native Hawaiians."<sup>1</sup> Due primarily to inadequate State funding, DHHL has amassed a waitlist of over 28,700 beneficiary-applicants, with countless applicants having passed away while awaiting the State to fulfill its obligation to them.

Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole advocated for the passage of HHCA in 1921 on behalf of the Native Hawaiian people. After a century during which over 84% of the indigenous population was decimated by foreign-introduced diseases, pushing them to near extinction, 'Ōiwi leaders determined that the only way to rehabilitate Native Hawaiians,

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<sup>1</sup> Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, §101 (Purpose).





who the U.S. government characterized as “landless and dying,”<sup>2</sup> was to “place them back upon the soil.”<sup>3</sup>

Appropriating \$600 million for the purpose of administering the HHCA through the DHHL would be a significant step in the right direction toward the State fulfilling its numerous obligations to the Native Hawaiian people.

Accordingly, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2511, HD2 SD1. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO  
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

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<sup>2</sup> The findings of Pub. L. 106-569, title V, §512, Dec. 27, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> The testimony of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole as quoted in the DHHL 2021 Legislative Fact Sheet.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

ESTHER KIA'ĀINA  
VICE CHAIR  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 3  
Email: ekiaaina@honolulu.gov  
Telephone: (808) 768-5003

April 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong **support** of **HB2511 HD2 SD1**, which would appropriate \$600 million to the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund for the development of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) lots and related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to DHHL beneficiaries. The bill also requires a report on expenditures from the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund and the number of beneficiaries removed from the waitlist for Hawaiian home lands through the use of the fund after each fiscal year.

While the native Hawaiian people and the larger Hawai'i community have benefited substantially from the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, the State can do so much more to fulfill the fiduciary obligations it accepted as a condition of Statehood. Passage of HB2511 HD2 SD1, which would provide funding for DHHL to develop infrastructure and homesteads for DHHL beneficiaries who have been on the waitlist for decades, is a great way to further the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA). I am encouraged that this bill allocates funds aimed toward the development of homestead lots across the State, including the allocation of \$25,000,000 for 150 new residential and agricultural lots in Waimānalo. This would allow DHHL to expand existing homesteads in Waimānalo, which is one of the most coveted homestead locations for beneficiaries. Additionally, allocation of funding for down payment and mortgage assistance, provides hope for many beneficiaries who see Hawaiian Homesteads as their only option to own a home in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on this important matter.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2511 HD2, SD1: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing: Friday, April 8, 2022; 1:00 PM; via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support of HB 2511 HD2 SD2**, which appropriates funds into the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund for Hawaiian home lots, related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

The time is now! It is time to pass this historic step forward towards the State's commitment to house native Hawaiians. **Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports this bill as a Social Justice issue.** Long ago at statehood, the State promised to house native Hawaiians following the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. The native Hawaiian community needs affordable housing. The lack of housing has had an immense negative impact. Native Hawaiians are over represented among the homeless. They have suffered many social, health and economic ills over the years that could have been prevented if stable and affordable housing was available.

The time is now. The State's economic forecasts are promising as Hawai'i comes out of the COVID pandemic. Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports \$600 million** to fund much needed housing for native Hawaiians. **We support down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to the beneficiaries to provide more access to home ownership.** This offers great hope and promise not only to native Hawaiians who will move into these homes, but generations to come. It will provide stability and enable them, their children and their grandchildren to remain in Hawai'i and become strong participants in our community. Their strong values for family, respect for the Land, and cultural pride provide a rich heritage for everyone in our community.

Let's not miss this opportunity to create a Hawai'i that we can all be proud of. We urge you to pass HB 2511 HD2 SD1. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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*Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.*

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2511, HD2 SD1: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
Hearing: **Friday, 4/8/22; 1:00 pm; via videoconference**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of **HB 2511, HD2 SD1**: which funds the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund for Hawaiian home land lots, related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Partners In Care (PIC), is the Oahu Continuum of Care, and coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers, advocates, government and other concerned organizations working together to end homelessness.

Partners In Care's mission is to end homelessness on Oahu. We find that Native Hawaiians are over represented among the homeless. There is a dire need for more affordable housing for this community. Long ago, the State promised to house native Hawaiians. The ongoing lack of housing has very troubling consequences for health, safety, and of course homelessness among this community.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands requires an immense infusion of funding to enable native Hawaiians to acquire a residence. This funding is needed for costly infrasture as well as construction of homes. **The addition of down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to SD1 is also greatly needed.** Families may be able to afford monthly mortgage payments but lack the down payment which is critical to obtain a loan for home ownership. Others may need mortgage payment help to achieve home ownership. This bill provides more flexibility to the State's efforts to ensure housing for native Hawaiians. Over 28,000 native Hawaiians are on the waiting list for a home. With the State's forecasts of growth in revenues coming out of the pandemic, it is time to address this great need.

**PIC urges your support for a \$600 million allocation to this new Rehabilitation Fund to increase the Department of Hawaiian Home Land's capacity to provide housing for the thousands of native Hawaiian beneficiaries who sit on its waitlist.** It is time to give them hope for their future, and that of their children and grandchildren.

Mahalo.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
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**TOMMY WATERS**  
CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER  
DISTRICT 4  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5004  
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April 8, 2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of HB2511 HD2 SD1 – Relating to the  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my strong support for HB2511 HD2 SD1, which would appropriate \$600 million to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Housing is one of the biggest issues facing Hawai'i and the Hawaiian community. This bill will provide much needed funding to the Department to address its longstanding waitlist and provide resources for the Department to expedite development to get Hawaiians into homes. Specifically, I strongly support the varied solutions of this bill that will allow the Department to provide down payment and mortgage assistance, as well as important infrastructure and development funding for Hawaiian Home Lands.

Housing requires a holistic solution and this bill is a vital step to ensure that we address the housing needs of our residents across Hawai'i. We need to work together at the federal, state, and county levels to ensure that our local residents have places to live.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Waters".

Councilmember Tommy Waters  
District 4 (*Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhemina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park*)

**To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

**Hearing Date/Time: Friday 4.8.22 1pm**

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2511 HD2 SD1**

**From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) strongly supports HB 2511 HD2 SD1 which funds the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund for Hawaiian home land lots, related projects, and down payment assistance and mortgage payment assistance to beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Native Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted by lack of affordable housing and have higher rates of homelessness and this bill will provide much needed funding to increase DHHL' capacity to provide housing for the over 28,000 currently on the waitlist.

HHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

**HB-2511-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 12:51:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daintry Bartoldus	Testifying for State Council on Developmental Disabilities	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support. Thank you