

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1477

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2023

RE: S.R. No. 71

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.R. No. 71 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME
LANDS TO IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED TO EXECUTE A PLAN TO
REPAIR HOMES FOR SAFE HABITATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to identify resources needed to
execute a plan to repair homes for safe habitation.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Your Committee finds that despite the efforts of the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide housing to
beneficiaries on its waitlist, the Department is constrained by
its limited inventory of housing-ready units and the practical
reality that it can take months or even years to plan, design, and
construct new housing projects. Notwithstanding, your Committee
finds that certain Hawaiian Home Lands units in already-developed
communities have remained unoccupied. Your Committee finds that
this can occur due to a variety of reasons, such as the
anticipation of a pending transfer or the need for repairs to
restore a unit to habitability. Your Committee finds that the
Department's ability to expediently fill tenant-unoccupied or
vacant units is in the interest of beneficiaries. Therefore, this



measure requests the Department to develop a plan to quickly and efficiently identify properties that are unoccupied or in need of repairs, assist lessees in assessing repairs and finding financing, expedite pending lease transfers, and conduct contested hearings in a timely manner.

Lastly, your Committee has heard the testimony of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, expressing concerns that additional personnel and expertise may be necessary to develop and implement a proposed plan in conformance with the aspirations of this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 71 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,



MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



