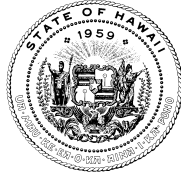


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KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

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TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 19, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

SCR87 / SR73, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

March 19, 2024

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this concurrent resolution urging the DHHL to adopt and implement a neighborhood security watch in each homestead area.

DHHL understands that criminal activity that is threatening the health and safety of Hawaiian Home Land communities must be addressed. DHHL is currently utilizing a multi-pronged approach including the establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) to study and recommend strategies related to safety and the enforcement of lease terms and conditions on Hawaiian Home Lands, Memorandums of Agreement with the various counties and the Hawaii Police Department on O'ahu, and SB2645, SD2 relating to Compliance on Hawaiian Home Lands. DHHL has been working to fill vacant positions for the Compliance and Enforcement team at DHHL and DHHL is also aware of the current collaborative efforts among Neighborhood Security Watch groups, Law Enforcement, and DHHL. Due to safety and liability concerns, DHHL is supportive of homestead communities and neighborhood security watch groups who wish to safely work in collaboration with Law Enforcement and DHHL.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.