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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The history of Hawaiian home lands is marked by  
2 the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, (HHCA) which was signed  
3 into law in 1921 by President Warren G. Harding. The idea for  
4 Hawaiian home lands began in 1893 after the overthrow of the  
5 Hawaiian Kingdom. Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole and other  
6 advocates led the effort to pass the HHCA.

7           The HHCA was intended to help native Hawaiians become  
8 self-sufficient by returning them to the land and providing them  
9 with homesteads. The HHCA set aside about 200,000 acres of land  
10 for the Hawaiian home lands trust. This land is located on the  
11 islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai. When  
12 Hawaii became a state in 1959, Congress transferred title of the  
13 Hawaiian home lands trust to the State.

14           The State administers the Hawaiian home lands trust through  
15 the department of Hawaiian home lands (DHHL). In the decades  
16 since the inception of the HHCA, there has been much criticism  
17 of the program, mostly due to lack of housing units as evidenced



1 by the over 28,000-member-long waitlist. In 2022, the  
2 legislature took its most aggressive approach to reduce the  
3 waitlist and appropriated an historic amount of funding totaling  
4 \$600,000,000.

5 DHHL has been very diligent in efforts to maximize these  
6 funds and is on track to build more than six thousand units with  
7 the \$600,000,000 that has been appropriated. Although this is  
8 an amazing feat, the department still has the task of building  
9 more units and getting more native Hawaiians back on their land  
10 as intended by Prince Kuhio. The current DHHL administration  
11 has shown considerable ability to fulfill this task as they are  
12 ready and capable to add thousands of additional units, subject  
13 to funding by the legislature.

14 The legislature finds that it is of utmost importance to  
15 fulfill our responsibilities under the HHCA and intends to  
16 provide appropriate funding to realize the mission of Prince  
17 Kuhio and return native Hawaiians back to their ancestral lands.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000,000 or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



# H.B. NO. 581

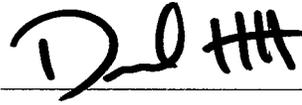
1 year 2026-2027 for new construction of housing units for native  
2 Hawaiians.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

6

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 17 2025



# H.B. NO. 581

**Report Title:**

DHHL; New Construction; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to the department of Hawaiian home lands for new construction of housing units for native Hawaiians.

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

