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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONTINUED  
OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS'  
EXECUTION OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY ACT 279, SESSION LAWS OF  
HAWAII 2022.

1           WHEREAS, in an effort to reduce the number of native  
2 Hawaiian applicants waiting for a homestead lease, Act 279,  
3 Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 279), was enacted to  
4 appropriate a historic \$600,000,000 to the Department of  
5 Hawaiian Home Lands for such purpose; and

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7           WHEREAS, due to the historic nature of Act 279, the House  
8 of Representatives established the Act 279 Working Group  
9 (Working Group) via adoption of House Resolution No. 10, Regular  
10 Session of 2023, to oversee the execution of the Act 279 funds;  
11 and

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13           WHEREAS, the Working Group held four public hearings with  
14 the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands where the Department  
15 updated the Working Group on its efforts to utilize Act 279  
16 funds; and

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18           WHEREAS, the Working Group was also tasked with providing  
19 recommendations and emphasized the importance of providing  
20 native Hawaiian families the ability to remain in their  
21 homelands, as there are now more native Hawaiians living in the  
22 continental United States than Hawaii; and

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24           WHEREAS, one recommendation of the Working Group was to  
25 provide the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands more time to  
26 utilize Act 279 funds as, despite the Department's best efforts,  
27 constitutional constraints meant the Department only had until  
28 June 30, 2024, to encumber the entire \$600,000,000; and  
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1           WHEREAS, this recommendation was accomplished with the  
2 enactment of Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, which lapsed  
3 Act 279 funds into the newly created Act 279 Special Fund,  
4 thereby allowing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to  
5 encumber any remaining funds until June 30, 2026; and  
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7           WHEREAS, another recommendation of the Working Group was  
8 the continued oversight of projects developed with Act 279 funds  
9 to ensure the Legislature and public remain informed and updated  
10 on the efforts of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; now,  
11 therefore,  
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13           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
15 of 2025, that a legislative working group be established for the  
16 continued oversight over the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands'  
17 execution of Act 279 funds; and  
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19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of  
20 the following members designated as follows:  
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- 22           (1) The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Representative from the  
23               Sixteenth District, who shall serve as Chair;  
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25           (2) The Honorable Daniel Holt, Representative from the  
26               Twenty-Eighth District;  
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28           (3) The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Representative from the  
29               Forty-Fourth District;  
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31           (4) The Honorable Lisa Marten, Representative from the  
32               Fifty-First District;  
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34           (5) The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Representative from the  
35               Thirteenth District;  
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37           (6) The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Representative from the  
38               Eighth District; and  
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40           (7) The Honorable Gene Ward, Representative from the  
41               Eighteenth District; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives may amend the membership of the working group as deemed necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a progress report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than twenty days prior to the commencement of the Regular Session of 2026, and a final report of its findings and any recommendations no later than twenty days before the commencement of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease to exist on January 1, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

OFFERED BY: *Neelie K. Naha*

MAR - 7 2025