

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE MONEYS
APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
PURSUANT TO ACT 279, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022.

1 WHEREAS, Act 279, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 ("Act 279"),
2 as amended by Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, appropriated
3 \$600,000,000 to eliminate the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
4 waitlist by providing land and housing to native Hawaiians; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was
7 authorized to use the appropriated moneys to develop residential
8 lots and housing units, purchase land, provide financial
9 assistance to the waitlisted applicants, and other necessary
10 services; and
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12 WHEREAS, Act 279 mandates that the Department of Hawaiian
13 Home Lands establish a strategic plan that aligns with the
14 beneficiaries' preferences, as identified in the 2020
15 Beneficiaries Study Applicant Report, with seventy-six percent
16 of beneficiaries preferring a single-family home or a vacant lot
17 for home construction, and sixteen percent preferring rental or
18 rent-to-own options for single-family homes, duplexes,
19 apartments, or townhouses; and
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21 WHEREAS, as of 2022, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
22 waitlist included over 28,700 native Hawaiian beneficiaries, a
23 number that remains relatively unchanged by late 2024 despite
24 the intent of Act 279; and
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26 WHEREAS, On January 17, 2024, the Department of Hawaiian
27 Home Lands submitted its required Annual Activity Report which
28 stated that the Department encumbered and expended approximately
29 \$193.7 million, with the projected total of 1,489 applicants on
30 the waiting list having been assisted; and
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32 WHEREAS, the entire appropriation of \$600,000,000 was
33 reportedly attached to projects by early 2025, targeting over
34 seven thousand five hundred homes and lots over the next five
35 years; and



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WHEREAS, as of March 5, 2025, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has not submitted its Annual Activity Report to the Legislature, as required by Act 279, to account for the expenditures made for the purposes of Act 279 in the previous fiscal year, and to account for the number of applicants on the waiting list that have been assisted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an audit on the Department of the Hawaiian Home Lands as related to the moneys allocated to it pursuant to Act 279 and the 2020 Beneficiaries Study Applicant Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

OFFERED BY:



