

JAN 28 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Hawaiian Home
2 Lands ("DHHL") is "to manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust
3 effectively and to develop and deliver lands to native
4 Hawaiians"; and

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6 WHEREAS, despite this clear-cut objective, more than 29,000
7 applicants remain on DHHL's waitlist for homestead lands; and

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9 WHEREAS, tragically, at least 2,100 beneficiaries have died
10 while awaiting their homestead awards, further showcasing the
11 unacceptable speed at which DHHL is fulfilling this mission; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Hawaii State Legislature passed Act
14 279 appropriating \$600 million to DHHL with the primary goal of
15 reducing the waitlist; and

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17 WHEREAS, this significant investment has produced little of
18 its anticipated return, with few lots and homesteads being
19 delivered compared to the original plan; and

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21 WHEREAS, audits, largely focusing on financial components,
22 have been conducted, though no comprehensive audit has been
23 performed in recent years with focus on DHHL's program
24 effectiveness, operational efficiency, and success in
25 effectuating their mission; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
30 requested to conduct a performance audit of the Department of
31 Hawaiian Home Lands, with a focus on:

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- 1 (1) The extent to which the Department of Hawaiian Home
2 Lands is fulfilling its mission;
- 3 (2) The department's efficiency and use of resources;
- 4 (3) Whether the department's trust funds and revenues are
5 sufficient and sustainable;
- 6 (4) The rate at which land is being developed and awarded
7 compared to stated goals;
- 8 (5) The extent to which the department's programs are
9 improving housing stability, economic self-
10 sufficiency, and cultural preservation for
11 beneficiaries;
- 12 (6) Beneficiaries' access to information, application
13 support, and ease of communication with the
14 department;
- 15 (7) The roles and effectiveness of the Hawaiian Homes
16 Commission;
- 17 (8) And any other factors that contribute to evaluating
18 the performance of the Department of Hawaiian Home
19 Lands as it relates to fulfilling its mission; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
22 include in the audit:

- 23 (1) Data collection and analysis on the adequacy of
24 resources allocated to the department, including
25 staffing, infrastructure, and funding;
- 26 (2) Recommendations for improvements or changes to
27 existing policies, structures, or programs to enhance
28 efficiency and outcomes;
- 29 (3) A timeline for implementation of recommended
30 improvements or changes; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to



1 submit to the Legislature a report of any findings and
2 recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to the
3 convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Auditor,
7 Chair of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the
8 House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairman
9 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

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OFFERED BY: 

