

JAN 28 2026

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## SENATE CONCURRENT 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 ("DHHL" or "the Department") waitlist by providing land and  
5 housing to native Hawaiians; and

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7        WHEREAS, DHHL was authorized to use the appropriated moneys  
8 to develop residential lots and housing units, purchase land,  
9 provide financial assistance to the waitlisted applicants, and  
10 other necessary services; and

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12       WHEREAS, Act 279 mandates that DHHL establish a strategic  
13 plan that aligns with the beneficiaries' preferences, as  
14 identified in the 2020 Beneficiaries Study Applicant Report,  
15 with seventy-six percent of beneficiaries preferring a single-  
16 family home or a vacant lot for home construction, and sixteen  
17 percent preferring rental or rent-to-own options for single-  
18 family homes, duplexes, apartments, or townhouses; and

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20       WHEREAS, Act 279 further mandates that DHHL submit an  
21 annual report on the first day of each regular session that  
22 includes an accounting of the expenditures for the purposes of  
23 the act in the previous fiscal year, and the number of  
24 applicants on the waiting list that were assisted; and

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26       WHEREAS, as of 2022, the DHHL waitlist included over 28,700  
27 native Hawaiian beneficiaries, a number that has grown despite  
28 the intent of Act 279; and

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30       WHEREAS, the entire appropriation of \$600,000,000 was  
31 reportedly attached to projects by early 2025, targeting over  
32 7,500 homes and lots over the next five years; and



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2        WHEREAS, a news release dated April 25, 2025 reported that  
3 DHHL planned to issue more than 2,600 leases by the end of 2025;  
4 and

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6        WHEREAS, on January 17, 2024, DHHL submitted its required  
7 Annual Activity Report which stated it had encumbered and  
8 expended approximately \$193.7 million, with a projected total of  
9 1,489 applicants on the waiting list having been assisted in  
10 fiscal year 2023; and

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12       WHEREAS, on January 15, 2025, DHHL submitted its required  
13 Annual Activity Report which stated that it had encumbered and  
14 expended approximately \$363.4 million, with a projected total of  
15 185 applicants on the waiting list having been assisted in  
16 fiscal year 2024; and

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18       WHEREAS, as of January 21, 2026, the first day of regular  
19 session, DHHL's Annual Activity Report, as required by Act 279,  
20 was not yet publicly available; now, therefore,

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22       BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
25 requested to conduct an audit on the Department of the Hawaiian  
26 Home Lands as related to the moneys allocated to it pursuant to  
27 Act 279 and the 2020 Beneficiaries Study Applicant Report; and

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

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OFFERED BY:

