

JAN 28 2026

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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,  
29 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of  
30 the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, with a focus on:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to Include in the audit:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit to the Legislature a report of any findings and recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Auditor, Chair of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M. ...", written over a horizontal line.