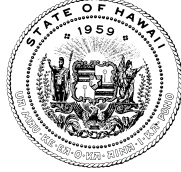


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

LATE

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
& HOMELESSNESS
ON APRIL 1, 2026 AT 10:00AM IN CR 329

**HCR 123 / HR 115, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME
LANDS AND STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING
SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED SUPPORT AND STABILIZATION
PATHWAY FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS OR EXTREMELY LOW INCOME**

April 1, 2026

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the Committee:

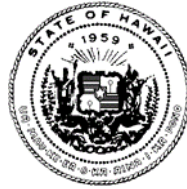
The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this resolution requesting the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to develop a coordinated support and stabilization pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness or extremely low income.

DHHL supports the intent of this resolution which notes much of the work that DHHL is currently doing. In January 2026, DHHL commemorated the completion of DHHL's first transitional housing facility for native Hawaiians experiencing houselessness, named Hale o Kumumamo. DHHL began the renovation process for this federally funded project, amounting to more than \$6.4 million, in September 2024.

DHHL appreciates that this resolution prioritizes its beneficiaries and recognizes how crucial partnerships are in serving native Hawaiian houseless populations and extremely low-income beneficiaries. DHHL supports developing coordinated support and stabilization pathways for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries in coordination with the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 31, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Jun D. Yang, Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HCR 123/HR 115 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS AND STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED SUPPORT AND STABILIZATION PATHWAY FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR EXTREMELY LOW INCOME.**

Hearing: April 1, 2026, Time 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

AGENCY'S POSITION: The Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) supports this resolution and offers comments. This resolution urges the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and SOHHS to develop a coordinated support and stabilization pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness or extremely low income. The coordinating agencies are requested to submit a report regarding the development of a coordinated support and stabilization pathway to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.

SOHHS welcomes the opportunity to continue to partner with DHHL to identify opportunities to support Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness. Compared to the general population, Native Hawaiians are over-represented in the state's homeless population. Furthermore, Native Hawaiians often experience higher rates of food insecurity

and health disparities compared to other ethnic groups, which can exacerbate housing and economic challenges that lead to homelessness.

The recent opening of the Hale o Kumumamo transitional living facility for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness is one example of leveraging State and federal resources to create transitional housing specifically for beneficiaries experiencing homelessness. Hale o Kumumamo provides safe, supportive living spaces to 18 beneficiaries identified through DHHL and the Continuum of Care. The creation of intermediate housing resources, including transitional housing and rental housing, is a key component of the housing ladder, as these resources give households the opportunity to continue to transform their lives and work toward upward mobility with increasing levels of independence. SOHHS will continue to partner with DHHL and other public and private sector partners to create housing opportunities for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 1, 2026

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Vice Chair

Zora Shove

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Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HCR123 – Requesting the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to Develop a Coordinated Support and Stabilization Pathway for Native Hawaiian Beneficiaries Experiencing Homelessness or Extremely Low Income.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **strongly supports HCR123**, which requests the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to develop a coordinated support and stabilization pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness or extremely low income.

AILH is a Center for Independent Living serving people with all types of disabilities statewide. Many of the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries we serve live with significant physical, sensory, cognitive, and behavioral health disabilities that intersect with housing instability and deep poverty.

Disability, Native Hawaiian Beneficiaries, and Houselessness

The resolution recognizes DHHL's constitutional mandate to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and the Statewide Office's responsibility for addressing homelessness across Hawaii. It correctly notes that coordination between these entities can pool expertise and resources, reduce duplication, and ensure beneficiaries receive more comprehensive support.



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Homelessness and extremely low incomes are described as cyclical without sustained intervention, and the resolution calls for a coordinated pathway with ongoing support, follow-up, and stabilization services to break that cycle. For disabled Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, this is essential to avoid repeated displacement, institutionalization, or long-term shelter stays.

Independent Living Perspective on the Pathway

AILH strongly supports the directive that DHHL and the Statewide Office:

- Assess the number of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are experiencing homelessness or whose incomes are at or below 30% of Area Median Income.
- Identify gaps in housing stabilization, rental assistance, and supportive housing access.
- Evaluate establishing a coordinated indigent support pathway and transitional kauhale or tiny home village models on appropriate DHHL lands.
- Examine partnerships with nonprofit providers for supportive services and case management, and identify housing, Medicaid, and state supportive housing funding sources.

From an Independent Living standpoint, these elements are crucial to creating culturally rooted, community-based housing options with built-in supports that allow disabled beneficiaries to remain in their communities with autonomy and dignity.

Protecting Trust Obligations and Disability Rights

The resolution appropriately requires DHHL and the Statewide Office to identify land classifications and safeguards to ensure full compliance with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and trust obligations, and to ensure any pathway prioritizes eligible beneficiaries. AILH supports this and recommends that disability access and fair housing obligations also be



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explicitly considered, including physical accessibility, reasonable accommodations, and non-discrimination for beneficiaries with psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities.

We also support the call for pilot program structures, eligibility criteria, and operational safeguards. These should be developed with Native Hawaiian beneficiary and disability community input to avoid unintended exclusions or overly rigid criteria that screen out those with the highest needs.

Recommendation

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii strongly supports HCR123 and respectfully urges this Committee to pass the resolution. We further recommend that DHHL and the Statewide Office, in developing the coordinated pathway, explicitly engage:

- Native Hawaiian beneficiaries with lived experience of disability and houselessness; and
- Cross-disability organizations, including Centers for Independent Living.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director

LATE

HCR-123

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 2:11:03 PM
Testimony for HSH on 4/1/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Heithaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the bare minimum that the state owes to Native Hawaiians who are stuck in this capitalist colonial system that was forced on them. Much more should be done, but at least this could be a small measure to help to address the basic right to secure housing, part of UN recognized human rights which our state currently fails to secure for it's citizens.

**Testimony in Support of H.C.R. No. 123 (2026)
Relating to a Coordinated Support and Stabilization Pathway for Native Hawaiian
Beneficiaries**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support H.C.R. No. 123, which requests the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) to develop a coordinated support and stabilization pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness or extremely low income.

Native Hawaiian beneficiaries continue to face disproportionate rates of housing insecurity and homelessness. At the same time, existing systems of support are often fragmented and difficult to navigate. This resolution takes an important step toward addressing these challenges by promoting collaboration, alignment of resources, and a more streamlined approach to service delivery.

By encouraging coordination between DHHL and SOHHS, this measure will help reduce duplication of effort, maximize the impact of available funding, and ensure that beneficiaries receive comprehensive, wraparound services. A coordinated pathway can provide not only immediate assistance but also ongoing support and follow-up, which are critical to breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Importantly, H.C.R. No. 123 supports the exploration of culturally grounded solutions, such as kauhale or tiny home village models, which reflect community-based approaches rooted in Native Hawaiian values. These models have the potential to offer both housing and a sense of belonging, which are essential for long-term stability.

The resolution also emphasizes accountability and thoughtful planning. It calls for assessing the scale of need, identifying gaps in existing services, exploring partnerships with nonprofit providers, and identifying sustainable funding sources, including federal and state resources. The requirement to report back to the Legislature ensures transparency and continued progress.

Finally, this measure appropriately maintains compliance with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and reinforces the State's trust responsibility to prioritize Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

H.C.R. No. 123 represents a practical, collaborative, and culturally responsive approach to addressing homelessness among Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. It is a meaningful step toward ensuring that individuals and families have a clear pathway to stable housing and long-term well-being.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Kapua Segool