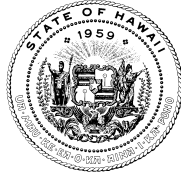


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawaii*

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



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 Hawaii'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON APRIL 7, 2026 AT 2:00PM IN CR 325

**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 7, 2026

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Apr 7, 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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Scott Suzuki  
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Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
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) submits testimony **in strong support of 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, including many Native Hawaiian beneficiaries whose disabilities intersect with deep poverty and housing instability.

From both a trust and disability rights perspective, Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are houseless or living on extremely low incomes often need sustained, coordinated support to avoid cycling between the streets, shelters, and institutional settings. HCR123 appropriately recognizes DHHL's constitutional mandate and the Statewide Office's homelessness role, and calls for joint work to assess the number of affected beneficiaries, identify gaps in stabilization and supportive housing, evaluate indigent support and kauhale or tiny home village models on appropriate DHHL lands, and examine partnerships and funding sources. For disabled beneficiaries, these elements are essential to building culturally rooted, community-based



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Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

housing options with built-in supports that allow people to remain in their communities with autonomy and dignity, rather than being pushed into more restrictive or off-island placements.

AILH strongly supports the directive to design a pathway that is consistent with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and trust obligations while ensuring that eligible beneficiaries do not fall through the cracks. We respectfully urge that disability access and fair housing obligations be explicitly incorporated into this work—including physical accessibility, reasonable accommodations, and nondiscrimination for beneficiaries with psychiatric, developmental, and other disabilities—and that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries with lived experience of disability and houselessness, along with cross-disability organizations such as Centers for Independent Living, be meaningfully engaged in shaping pilot structures and safeguards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR123 and for your commitment to a coordinated, rights-respecting pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are most at risk.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HCR123/HR115**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HCR123/HR115**, which requests 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.

Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in Hawai'i's houseless population and experience food and economic insecurity that further challenges that lead to houselessness. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has a constitutional mandate to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions carries the kuleana to address houselessness in Hawai'i.

By taking this stance, the State can fulfill its responsibilities to Hawai'i's Indigenous people and create a coordinated effort to safeguard Native Hawaiians from further cyclical issues that lack sustained intervention and accessible support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
*Donavan Kamakani Albano*  
Donavan Kamakani Albano  
Policy Fellow  
ACLU of Hawai'i  
[dalbano@acluhawaii.org](mailto:dalbano@acluhawaii.org)

*With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public*

*and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808.522.5900  
F: 808.522.5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

**HCR-123**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:26:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill to facilitate beneficiaries receiving promised housing benefits before they pass away.

Mahalo,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

**HCR-123**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:50:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE KAUHALE ON DHHL LANDS. HOUSING SOLUTION IS A STATE ENTITY WHICH SHOULD SEPARATED FROM DHHL!!

123 HCR 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