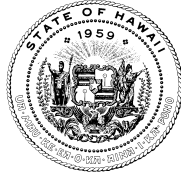


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawaii*

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 COMMITTEES ON HUMAN  
SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH  
ON APRIL 16, 2026 AT 9:45AM IN CR 329

**SCR 93, 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 16, 2026

Aloha Chairs Marten and Takayama, Vice Chairs Olds and Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the Committees:

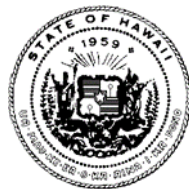
The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this resolution requesting the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to develop a coordinated support and stabilization pathway for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries experiencing homelessness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

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 14, 2026

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

FROM: Jun D. Yang, Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SCR 93/SR 88 – 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 16, 2026, Time 9:45 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.



Committee: Human Services & Homelessness  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:45am  
Place: Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SCR93**

Dear Chair Marten, Vice-Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of SCR93**, 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  
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[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 3:18:30 PM

Testimony for HSH on 4/16/2026 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nevaeh Rodales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee Members,

My name is Nevaeh Rodales, and I am a first-year student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa studying speech pathology. I strongly support SCR93 because it reflects the core values of Native Hawaiians respect for ‘āina, cultural preservation, and the right to live and thrive in one’s ancestral homeland. This bill is important to me because it speaks to the ongoing challenges many in our community face in maintaining a connection to their land due to rising costs and displacement.

For this community, this is about more than just policy it is about protecting identity, culture, and future generations. When people are forced away from their land, it disrupts traditions, family connections, and the ability to pass down knowledge. Supporting this bill helps ensure that Native Hawaiians and local families can continue to live, grow, and contribute to Hawai‘i in meaningful ways.

In conclusion, please support and pass SCR93. to help preserve our communities and uphold the values that make Hawai‘i unique.