



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEETING ON JUNE 7, 2021 AT 1:30 PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**AGENDA ITEM AH-21 WATER AND SEWER CREDITS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS FOR HOMESTEAD AND AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN
LAHAINA, MAUI, HAWAII**

Aloha Committee Chair Johnson, Committee Vice Chair Molina, and Members:

DHHL is in **SUPPORT** of this Maui County Council proposed Resolution and is greatly appreciative of Maui County's initiative and action to uphold Article XII, Section 1 of the State Constitution, which is the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA). The fulfillment of the HHCA is a condition of statehood and is a responsibility of all citizens of the State to uphold and faithfully implement. Article XII, Section 2 of the State Constitution confirms that:

"The State and its people accept, as a compact with the United States, relating to the management and disposition of the Hawaiian home lands, the requirement that the HHCA be included in this constitution. The State and its people do further agree and declare that the spirit of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act looking to the continuance of the Hawaiian homes projects for the further rehabilitation of the Hawaiian race shall be faithfully carried out."

The proposed resolution helps to educate and inform Maui County residents about the history and context of the HHCA. It recognizes that DHHL development projects should not be treated by the County like other private for-profit development. The timetable for DHHL development completion is predicated upon DHHL receiving sufficient funding from the Legislature and the availability of state tax revenues. The level of state tax revenues can vary greatly from year to year as evidenced by the recent economic downturn due to COVID-19.

The continuation of the reserved allocation of water and sewer credits provides more certainty in budgeting for new homestead development in West Maui and will greatly help to expedite the rate at which DHHL and the people of Hawaii provide homestead opportunities to DHHL waitlist beneficiaries, most of whom are long-time kama'aina residents of Maui County.

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Additionally, DHHL would like to suggest an **amendment** to the subject matter of the resolution to include **providing additional reservations / allocations of infrastructure** credits to DHHL for source, storage, and transmission for current and future DHHL homestead initiatives.

The DHHL homestead developments create affordable housing units in the respective county. With the County's assistance, DHHL can add significantly to Maui's affordable housing stock which helps the County achieve its affordable housing goals. The Resolution helps to create a mutually beneficial, 'win-win' situation for DHHL and Maui County. We look forward to continued cooperation and collaboration in the future.