


STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

August 15-16, 2022

TO: Members, Hawaiian Homes Commission
FROM:  Jobie Masagatani, Executive Assistant
Office of the Chairman
SUBJECT: Approval of the Act 279 Permitted Interaction Group Recommendations

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION:

That the Commission accept and approve the Preliminary Strategic Approach to Implement Act 279 of 2022 (Strategic Approach Plan), attached as Exhibit A, and authorize the Chair to begin implementation of such Plan.

DISCUSSION:

On July 11, 2022, Governor David Ige signed into law Act 279 (Act), formerly HB2511 HD2 SD2 CD1. On May 16, 2022, Chairman William Aila, Jr. established the Act 279 Permitted Interaction Group (f.k.a. HB2511 HD2 SD2 CD1 “Waitlist Reduction Act” Permitted Interaction Group) (“Committee”). The purpose of the Committee is to participate in the preparation of the strategic plan required by Act 279. The Committee is working to ensure that the program elements in this strategic plan are in line with the legislative intent of the bill and the Commission’s trust responsibilities and obligations. Its members include Commissioners Pauline Namuo, Russell Kaupu, Dennis Neves, and Chairman William Aila, Jr.

The Committee met a total of five times since May 16, 2022: on May 31, 2022, June 9, 2022, June 15, 2022, June 30, 2022, and July 7, 2022. A status report on the Committee’s activities was shared with the Hawaiian Homes Commission (“Commission”) at its June 2022 regular meeting. During these five meetings, the Committee received guidance from counsel on various topics related to the strategic plan and deliberated on elements included in the strategic plan based on working draft presentations prepared by staff. At the July 2022 regular meeting of the Commission, the Committee presented its report, including the initial product of its deliberations, “Preliminary Strategic Approach to Implement Act 279 of 2022” dated July 2022. Comments and feedback from the Commission were received at this meeting and incorporated in the final document “Preliminary Strategic Approach to Implement Act 279 of 2022” dated August 2022 and attached as Exhibit A.

Since the July 2022 Commission meeting, staff have reviewed the requirements of the strategic plan outlined in Act 279. While the Strategic Approach Plan (Exhibit A) meets most of

the critical requirements outlined in Act 279, there are one or two elements that are missing. Because time is of the essence with this large funding Act, the Committee seeks the Commission's approval of the motion as stated so that implementation of Act 279 can begin expeditiously. The Committee intends to reconvene in September and/or October to complete its purpose by finalizing the remaining items of the strategic plan as required by Act 279.

The Committee would like to thank the staff of both the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as well as the staff of the Department of the Attorney General for their participation and hard work through this process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the motion as stated.