



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
IN SUPPORT OF

**SB 2839 SD 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920,
AS AMENDED**

March 19, 2014

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is in support of this bill that repeals the directive to amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to accomplish the purposes of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission Act. This bill is part of the Governor's administrative package by request of our department.

Section 3 of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission Act (Act 195, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2011) mandates the amendment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, (HHCA) to accomplish the purposes set forth in Act 195 in a manner that is consistent with the current needs and requirements of the Native Hawaiian people and the current beneficiaries of the HHCA. The department is on record as a strong supporter of the Act 195, but based on our understanding of Act 195, no amendments to the HHCA are required to accomplish the purposes of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

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Further, we have found that Section 3 of Act 195 has created unnecessary confusion and suspicion among our beneficiaries as to what kinds of amendments are anticipated. Therefore, to eliminate this confusion, we respectfully request your support in passing this bill to amend Act 195.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



SB2839 SD1
RELATING TO THE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED
House Committee on Judiciary

March 20, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2839 SD1, which would repeal the directive to amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (HHCA), if necessary, to accomplish the purposes of Act 195, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2011 (Act 195).

Act 195, codified in Chapter 10H, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, established a 5-member Native Hawaiian Roll Commission to be administratively placed within the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to prepare and maintain a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians until the roll was certified and published and the Commission dissolved. The purpose of Act 195 was to recognize Native Hawaiians as the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli population of Hawai‘i and to recognize the State’s desire to support the continuing development of a reorganized Native Hawaiian entity and ultimately, the federal recognition of Native Hawaiians.

SB2839 SD1 seeks to repeal section 3 of Act 195, which states that the HHCA “shall be amended” to accomplish the purposes of Act 195. OHA supports repeal of this provision because the language is not necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in Act 195.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2839 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.