



Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice-Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 3, 2022
10:10 A.M.
Written Testimony Only

RE: Strong Support of SB3359 SD1 - Appropriation to DHHL

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce in strong support of SB3359 SD1. As business owners who believe in strengthening our economy without hurting employees, communities and the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of SB3359 SD1.

A majority of our members are settlers, or descendants of settlers, in Hawaii. We recognize the role that large business interests played in the initial occupation of Hawaii and the displacement of Kanaka Maoli from their lands.

The unsustainable economic model established by the Big Five landowners continues today through unbridled real estate speculation and profiteering that lawmakers have failed to mitigate. Allowing settlers and foreigners to treat land solely as a commodity, further dispossesses Kanaka Maoli from living on their ancestral lands.

If passed into law, SB3359 SD1 will appropriate funds (hopefully more than \$600M) to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and begin to redress the Legislature's past disregard for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, the Admissions Act and compact with the United States.

We hope this is the first of many legislative sessions when the Hawaii Legislature will fulfill its kuleana to Kanaka Maoli by allocating substantial funds to DHHL until there is no waitlist and all beneficiaries have a home on their land.

Hawaii Legislative Council	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu	Elle Cochran Maui Surfboards Maui	Russel Ruderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu
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