



BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hawaii State Legislature
March 14, 2017

Senate Bill 849 SD2
Relating to Hawaiian Homes Commission Act

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports SB849 SD2 which would lower the required blood quantum to one-thirty-second Hawaiian for certain successors to Hawaiian Home Lands Lessees and was recently amended to lower the blood quantum for transfers as well from 1/4 to 1/32 blood quantum. The lowering of the blood quantum for successors would help ensure that lands remain in Kanaka Maoli families for generations to come. However, KPAC has reservations about the amendments extending the 1/32 blood quantum to transfers as well.

The lowering of blood quantum should only be used for successors who are related to Hawaiian Home Lands Lessees. With over 20,000 applicants on the list waiting to receive land awards the State Legislature should work to ensure that the needs of the 50% plus quantum lessees are addressed in a timely manner by properly funding the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Studies have shown that Kanaka Maoli have shorter life expectancies, higher infant mortality rates and are much more likely to die from controllable diseases like diabetes than other ethnicities in Hawai‘i. This is a travesty for the Kanaka Maoli people who often wait years to receive a homestead award with many dying on the waitlist.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC