



BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

JANUARY 28, 2020

Senate Bill 2113

Relating to the Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Political Action Committee (KPAC) SUPPORTS THE INTENT of Senate Bill 2113 which requires the department of Hawaiian home lands to negotiate with native Hawaiians before offering Hawaiian home lands for lease to the public by auction and requires reporting on the disposition of lands including commercial leases.

Kanaka Maoli especially those of 50% blood quantum or more, have historically remained on the bottom of every socio-economic statistic. Allowing Kanaka Maoli to bid on a commercial lease on Hawaiian Home Lands would provide a stepping stone for Kanaka Maoli business to flourish and would be a just use of stolen Hawaiian Crown and Government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

HOWEVER, moving forward should be done with caution because of unintended legal consequences that this type of commercial lease preference might bring, especially if it will only be incorporated in State statutes and no changes are made to the Hawaiian Home Commission Act.

KPAC supports greater transparency in government and therefore, supports reporty on the disposition of lands including commercial leases by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to the State Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Chair, KPAC