



BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 10, 2021

HOUSE BILL 467
Relating to Public Lands

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina submits the following written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to House Bill 467 which would allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources to issue a rent reduction or waiver for certain lessee's expenses for demolition or provision of basic infrastructure and authorizes a local redevelopment agency to contract with a developer for construction of non-residential projects on any Public lands within a redevelopment area.

The majority of Public lands held by the State of Hawai'i are "ceded lands" or Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands which were illegally seized by the US. As a condition of Statehood 1.8 million acres of "ceded lands" was transferred from the federal government to the State of Hawai'i to be held as a public trust for 5 purposes including the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920. The Admissions Act further states that any other object besides the 5 purposes shall constitute a breach of trust for which suit may be brought by the United States.

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina has concerns over the misuse and mismanagement of these lands especially if it is being used outside of the 5 purposes set out in the Hawai'i State constitution for resort use rather than the public good. Furthermore, this measure sets up loopholes for corporations to get cheaper rent and and get contracts without going through the set public process on Public lands within a designated "redevelopment" area. The measure sets up the powers of another unelected committee that would determine hotel or resort uses and contract with developers outside of the set public process.

Lastly, this measure is not entirely specific to the Waiakea penninsula but allows for the creation and appointment of 'local redevelopment agencies' for all areas designated a "redevelopment" area. The description of the measure is misleading.

Me ka oiai'o,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina