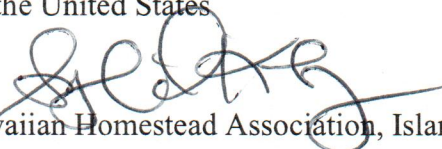




Date: September 28, 2021

To: Teresa Leger Fernandez, Chairwoman
House of Representative Subcommittee on the
Indigenous Peoples of the United States

From: Sybil Lopez, President 
Kalamaula Mauka Hawaiian Homestead Association, Island of Molokai

RE: Testimony In Support of House Joint Resolution 55

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Sybil Lopez, the President of the Kalamaula Mauka Hawaiian Homestead Association located on the island of Molokai in the State of Hawaii. In 1920, the U.S. Congress enacted the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) establishing our land trust to ensure lands were reserved for our native Hawaiian people to build homes, to farm, to ranch and to build mercantile businesses. Our collective trust lands span 203,000 acres, located within all four county jurisdictions on six different islands.

The term homestead association is how we describe our self-governing entities consisting of families located in specific areas of our land trust, to work together toward sustainability, self-reliance, and to address common challenges with local solutions that work for our homestead community in one region of Molokai.

There are 835 trust land leases on Molokai, of which 237 are located in our Kalamaula region, consisting of residential lands for homes, as well as farming and ranching lands.

We appreciate the work of the committee on House Joint Resolution 55 to address the needs of our families to fully participate in heirship of our homes, our farms and ranches, which will enable the assets built since the enactment of the HHCA 100 years ago, to be passed on to children and grandchildren of next generations. As every rural agriculturally based community knows well, generational farming and ranching, are a cornerstone of rural community prosperity.

Please accept my testimony in support of HJR55, which reflects federal government concurrence of the good works of our Hawaii State government, both the legislature and our Governor in amending the HHCA through Act 80 to ensure our children are afforded the opportunity to live our rural lifestyle here on Molokai.

We appreciate all of the sponsors of HJR55 from so many states across the country. Mahalo