



HO'OLEHUA HOMESTEAD AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION

P.O BOX 60 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Mission: To help Ho'olehua Homesteaders grow: revitalizing its food systems, maintaining subsistent lifestyles, and increasing long-term economic health.

October 5, 2021

Re: H.J.Res.55, "Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Protecting Family Legacies Act"

To: The Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States
United States House of Representatives
Honorable Chair Teresa Leger Fernandez & Subcommittee Members

Aloha Honorable Chair Teresa Leger Fernandez and Subcommittee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.J.Res.55. I am a Director on the Board of the Ho'olehua Homestead Agriculture Association and a fourth-generation homestead farmer of this area. The area of Ho'olehua, on the island of Molokai, makes up over half of the acreage of DHHL lands on this island used mostly as agricultural lots on nearly 8,000 acres. There are approximately 400 lots in the area of Ho'olehua representing at least 2,000 native Hawaiians.

The Ho'olehua Homestead Agriculture Association has advocated for Act 80 to decrease the successorship blood quantum requirements to 1/32nd in order that our lands in which we have farmed for generations can be passed down to our children, grandchildren, and beyond. We believe Prince Kūhiō's wish was for all Hawaiians to have land to rehabilitate themselves on, to live and thrive on. If we do not make these changes by passing H.J.Res.55, Hawaiians will once again become displaced and disconnected - literally, as many choose to move away from Hawai'i for cheaper living.

We ask for your consideration and advancement of H.J.Res.55 for our future Ho'olehua homestead farmers and for all of our future homesteaders.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kilia W. Purdy-Avelino
Representative of Ho'olehua Homestead Agriculture Association
kpurdyavelino@gmail.com