



**Keaukaha Pana‘ewa
Farmers Association**

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Building a Sustainable & Resilient Farming Community

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

H.J.Res.55, “Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole Protecting Family Legacies Act”

Testimony before the Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States

United States House of Representatives

October 5, 2021

**Maile Lu‘uwai
President, Keaukaha Pana‘ewa Farmers Association**

Honorable Chair Teresa Leger Fernández & Subcommittee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.J.Res.55. I am the President of the Keaukaha Pana‘ewa Farmers Association. I represent a homestead community of over 2000+ native Hawaiians located in Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i Island. Our farms and homes stretch across 1,600 acres of agricultural Hawaiian Home Land Trust lands.

H.J.Res.55 is supported by our homestead community and will provide a pathway to leave our homes and farms to our children, grandchildren and family members.

Congress transferred kuleana to the State of Hawai‘i to administer the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust. As you know, in 2017, Hawai‘i State Legislature passed Act 80 in response to concerns from my community and other homesteaders across the state.

We advocated for Act 80 and support H.J.Res.55 because our homestead families, whose family members do not meet the current blood quantum requirements, cannot transfer homes, farms, and ranches that they have worked so hard for.

The current successor blood quantum requirements are unjust and detrimental to our families and future generations of our 'ohana.

We ask that you recognize the rights of the State of Hawai'i; the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust administrator and initiator that laid the foundation for this landmark legislation.

Your support and advancement of H.J.Res.55 is greatly appreciated.

~ Mahalo ~