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Teresa Leger Fernandez, Chair
House of Representatives Subcommittee on the
Indigenous Peoples of the United States

RE: **Testimony in Support of House Joint Resolution 55**

Aloha, Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

I write to testify in favor of House Joint Resolution 55.

I am a Successor Lessee (heir) on Puukapu (15 acres) and Honokaia (285 acres) Ranch parcels. These lots are located in the Waimea Nui Region which includes Nienie (ranches), Honokaia (ranches), Kamoku (ranches), Puukapu (residential, farms and ranches, Lalamilo (residential), in the Waimea District, on the North Western part of Hawaii Island, in the State of Hawaii.

I have been and still am a member of the Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association.

The Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association, along with the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (a national organization), the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Annual Convention (a national organization), the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (a state government agency), the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Hawaii State Legislature, as well as many lessees and families have pledged support for this action.

Many lessee families will be able to continue their sustainability and self determination on the lands they now occupy, gratefully.

My sons and daughter are 37.5 % (3/8); their children are 18.75% (3/16).

Passing this legislation will provide longevity for current lessees and families who have devoted time, energy, and resources to build their homes and developed their farms and ranches. Passing this legislation will also provide the same benefits for applicants, as soon as they become lessees.

I will refer to the DHHL Lessee Survey, to which on 29.7% responded – that info is not representative of the total lessee population.

Sincerely, Marion K A Kapuniaia