

TO: The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FROM: Roy Oliveira, President
Waiehu Kou Phase 3 Association
Hawaiian Homelands, Maui
Federally Registered NHO (native Hawaiian Organization)
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Re: S.2264, To Reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA)

Aloha mai ka kou,

Chairman Schatz:

On behalf of the Waiehu Kou Phase 3 Association, Inc., I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. We appreciate your commitment to Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians, part of a great legacy continued by Hawaii's senators.

I am also writing in support of your bipartisan proposal under S.2264 to reauthorize NAHASDA for the next ten years, including Title VIII funding for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants and Section 184A Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee programs on Hawaiian Homelands.

We at Waiehu Kou are fortunate to have received homesteads. In our view, the priority clearly is developing new homesteads for over 26,000 Native Hawaiian applicants waiting for homesteads on Hawaiian Homelands. This is a large, aging, lower-income population. The applicants' median age is 59 years old; one-third are over 65 years old, and one-half are in the federal target population below 80% HUD AMI. [Source: DHHL Applicant Survey Report, 2020]

With homes now costing over \$800,000 in Hawaii, the U.S. Congress' vision in passing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act in 1921 is more important than ever to provide Native Hawaiian families a stable ancestral homestead and support the transfer of culture to future generations. Adding to the housing inventory also reduces stress overall in Hawaii's housing market which benefits all residents.

Time is of the essence! We urge passage of S.2264 to ensure that NAHASDA, the major federal housing program for Native Hawaiians, continues into the next decade providing a large, reliable funding source and flexible program approaches to meet their needs. We appreciate your continued support.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy K. Oliveira". The signature is written in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a small black square icon.

Roy K. Oliveira

[Waiehu Kou Phase 3 - Hawaiian Homes Homestead, Resilient Community](#)

cc: The Honorable Bill Aila, HHC Chairman