

## RE: HPR Interview - DHHL not spending funds appropriated to build lots for the Hawaiian homes program

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Good afternoon statewide Homesteads and Waitlist!

On Friday, Hawaii Public Radio hosted an interview with Bill Aila, SCHHA and a really amazing attorney, Tom Grand (he and Carl Veridy represent 2,700 kupuna dying on the waitlist).

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/podcast/the-conversation/2021-07-09/the-conversation-the-past-present-and-future-of-the-hawaiian-homes-commission-act>

Of significance, SCHHA has been reporting for several years now, that **DHHL is flush with cash**, indeed over \$250M in cash, plus another \$78M just appropriated by the legislature (mahalo!). It's been known for some time that DHHL has been dishonest in saying "lack of resources" is the reason for its failure to perform. In this interview, **Bill Aila made an astonishing admission**.

He said essentially they are "saving it", not spending it on infrastructure to issue lots to Hawaiians, in order to create an endowment. A quarter of a billion in cash - in a coffee can, under the mattress, during a housing/homeless crisis, when unions need work and we need dirt moved, buildable lots to issue to our people. Which of course would be followed by hundreds of millions in mortgage capital flowing for home and farm construction. Incredible construction jobs in an economy that needs it.

A state Govt agency that thinks it's KS or the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Policy matters.

We need a new Governor in 2022, we need a Legislature, a Congressional delegation that has read the Hawai'i constitution, that knows DHHL's job is to **move capital** to the building industry in order to **move land to Hawaiians**.

It's job is NOT to build a state agency investment kingdom, making Wall Street bankers rich off money that belongs working on the ground, employing the construction industry putting in roads, power and water, toward the Hawaiian home land mission - issuing land to Hawaiians. And yes, being a vital part of our state's economic recovery!

Can you even imagine the State of Hawai'i Department of Health or the Department of Education, taking funds appropriated by the Legislature, and socking it away in an endowment? Unacceptable state agency policy.

We simply must vote for a new Governor in 2022 and legislators that fulfill their constitutional duty to the waitlist, that implement the HHCA. Can!

Don't be afraid to hope for and vote for knowledgeable policy makers, I know the last 6 decades have been heartbreaking.

Don't give up, find strength. Let's vote for policy, let's speak policy to our electeds, give them the solutions - leave politics to others.

Robin Puanani Danner  
SCHHA Chairwoman