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September 3, 2024

The Honorable Esther Kia'āina
Chair and Members Committee on Planning and the Economy
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kia'āina and Councilmembers:

Re: OHA Support for Resolution 24-151, Proposed CD1

Aloha,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees support Resolution 24-151, proposed CD1, which seeks to authorize the transfer of an unused City-owned property in Kailua to the State Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) to facilitate the development of affordable housing. This resolution is crucial as it marks a significant step towards addressing the housing crisis in Kailua and across O'ahu. Housing affordability has become increasingly challenging, particularly for Native Hawaiian families who seek to reside on their ancestral lands. The transfer of this property to DHHL will pave the way for the establishment of the very first DHHL homestead in Kailua, a long-overdue initiative that will help alleviate DHHL's extensive waitlist backlog, providing much-needed housing opportunities for our community

The 10.038-acre parcel on Iliaina Street, valued at approximately \$10,455,000, has been vacant since the City acquired it in 1961. Transferring this property to DHHL presents a significant opportunity to utilize this land, which is already zoned for residential and restricted preservation uses. This transfer will facilitate the development of essential single-family homes for Native Hawaiians, enhancing their access to secure and affordable housing within their ancestral lands. Additionally, this development will be designed to complement the existing community's character and scale, thereby positively contributing to the neighborhood.

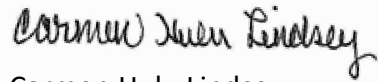
Furthermore, this initiative aligns with OHA's mission to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and ensure their equitable access to housing, education, health care, and

economic opportunities. It underscores our commitment to advancing the well-being of our beneficiaries and the broader community.

OHA further appreciates the inclusion of due diligence requirements prior to the conveyance to determine the suitability of the Kalaheo Site for the proposed development, including preparation of a Preliminary Engineering Report prior to the final conveyance of the property to DHHL. By providing these pre-conveyance requirements, we can ensure that the transfer of this property will be beneficial for both the Native Hawaiian community and the broader Kailua neighborhood.

OHA supports the amendments to Resolution 24-151, CD1, to address the critical need for affordable housing and to fulfill DHHL's housing mandate. Mahalo for your attention and commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community members.

'O wau iho nō me ka 'oia'i'o,



Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs