



HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 305

HONORING WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole introduced the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act for passage by the United States Congress for the betterment of his beloved Hawaiian people; and,

WHEREAS, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, as a delegate to the United States Congress, was not a voting member of that body; and,

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was signed by President Warren G. Harding on July 9, 1921 and the Commission was fully operative on September 16, 1921; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. graduated from Waianae High School in 1976 where the motto “Once a Searider, Always a Searider” lives on today; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor of Science in 1980; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. married Melva Napua Kailikea on August 20, 1976; and,

WHEREAS, on October 10, 1989, Melva Napua Aila was awarded Lot No. 59, an unimproved lot under acceleration, in Paheehee Ridge Subdivision as a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, Lot No. 59 was located within the perimeter of the U.S. Navy Lualualei ammunition blast zone and the seven other awardee families joined with the Aila ohana to be relocated; and,

WHEREAS, after the DHHL’s attempts at finding suitable lots for relocation failed, the eight families advocated for the rights to DHHL commercial leases in Lualualei that were nearing expiration; and,

WHEREAS, on February 15, 1994, the Hawaiian Homes Commission granted Mrs. Aila and the other seven families relocation to the Lualualei land previously held by a dairy farm and unregulated trucking company; and,



HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. and his wife spent months cleaning up Lot No. 7 of the environmental hazards left behind by the former commercial lessee including barrels of motor oil, car batteries and rusty farm machinery; and,

WHEREAS, Lot No. 7 now boasts farm animals, fruit trees and kalo, through the collective resilience of the Aila ohana; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. began his public service career in July 1986 thru November 1987 with the Honolulu Police Department as a Storekeeper; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. served at the Department of Transportation in November 1987 as Harbor Agent and then under the Department of Land and Natural Resources until December 2010 when he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources by Governor Neil Abercrombie; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr. was appointed Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from January 1, 2015 thru May 16, 2019 by Governor David Y. Ige; and,

WHEREAS, Deputy Aila spearheaded evacuation discussions on February 23, 2015 at Makuu Farmer's Market for residents at risk of displacement due to the impending lava flow caused by Kilauea; and,

WHEREAS, before going to the community meeting Deputy Aila hiked to the flow front at DHHL's Makuu water well and offered oli and a hookupu of kalo from his homestead of Lualualei; and,

WHEREAS, after the eruption ended, the lava flow had stopped before the Makuu water well, went around it, and formed a protective kipuka; and,

WHEREAS, the lava flow did not reach Makuu homestead, and no evacuations were necessary; and,

WHEREAS, William J. Aila, Jr., became the 25th Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission on May 17, 2019 when he was appointed interim Chairman by Governor David. Y. Ige; and,

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Hawaii Legislature confirmed him as Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission on February 10, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, under Chairman Aila's leadership the Hawaii State Legislature funded DHHL a record \$600 million to reduce the department's waitlist; and,

WHEREAS, Chairman Aila headed a Permitted Interaction Group to develop the strategic plan for the \$600 million that was passed by the Hawaiian Homes Commission at its August 2022 meeting; and,



HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Chairman Aila submitted the Act 279 Plan to the State Legislature on December 6, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, under Chairman Aila's leadership Title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act was funded at its highest level in twenty years at \$22 million; and,

WHEREAS, under Chairman Aila's leadership DHHL was awarded \$17.2 million under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program administered by the National Transportation and Information Administration; and,

WHEREAS, Chairman Aila displayed indefatigable resilience in serving the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the unwavering commitment to his fiduciary responsibilities during his tenure at the Hawaiian Homes Commission;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the undersigned, duly recognized as the Vice-Chairman and members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, on this 19th day of December, 2022, do set forth their hands in honoring William J. Aila, Jr. for his service as Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Homes Commission also recognizes William J. Aila, Jr. for his 36 years of public service to the people of the State of Hawaii; and,

BE IT FURTH RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted in its entirety to members of Hawaii's delegation to the U.S. Congress; the Governor of the State of Hawaii; the President of the State Senate; the Speaker of the State House; the Mayors of the four Counties; the presidents of all of the community associations of the Hawaiian Homesteads; and to his wife of forty-seven years, to whom he had promised all those decades ago to "always honor and obey," Melva Napua Aila.

ADOPTED THIS 19th day of December, 2022, at Hale Pono, in Kapolei, on the island of Oahu, State of Hawaii, by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in Regular Meeting assembled.



HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

OFFERED BY:

Randy Kalei Awo, Vice-Chair

Pauline Namuo, Member

Zachary Helm, Member

Dennis Neves, Member

Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya, Member

Russell Kaupu, Member

Michael Kaleikini, Member



HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION