



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations



July 2, 2025

Aloha Native Hawaiian Community Leaders,

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR), with the assistance of the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), seeks your input regarding the proposed land exchange of “available lands” of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust (Trust) in Waiawa, O‘ahu, identified as the ‘Ewa Drum Property, for property in ‘Ewa, O‘ahu, owned by the City and County of Honolulu (City), identified as the Varona Village Property. Such land exchange requires the approval of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to [Hawaiian Homes Commission Act](#) (HHCA) section 204(a)(3), [Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act](#) section 205, and DOI regulations at [43 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 47](#).

ONHR specifically seeks HHCA beneficiary input through its Homestead and Beneficiary Associations (HBA) List and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO) List. ONHR appreciates the assistance of DHHL in its direct outreach to individual HHCA beneficiaries residing near the two properties. ONHR and DHHL previously engaged with HHCA beneficiaries on the proposed land exchange in 2009. This consultation offers new information since 2009, focused on the appraisals of the two properties completed and approved by DOI in September 2021 for use in the proposed land exchange. We welcome information and input regarding any aspect of the proposed land exchange.

ONHR will hold a virtual session to share about the Secretary’s responsibility to review and approve or disapprove of proposed land exchanges and the land exchange procedures. **This virtual information session will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, starting at 6:30 pm HST.** Please register at: https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/JLlffK0JRkOkHg6_Pzq2cA

ONHR will host two consultation sessions, in-person and virtually, as follows:

<u>In-person</u>	<u>Virtually over Zoom for Gov</u>
Thursday, July 31, 2025 6:30 pm HST Hale Pono‘ī, 91-5420 Kapolei Pkwy, O‘ahu Register at: https://forms.office.com/g/w7dpt5uhh0	Friday, August 1, 2025 12:00 pm HST Register at: https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/tN_ar7Z7QPSwhA-sC4TxDQ

Information about the proposed land exchange, including information from DHHL and the City, will continue to be added to ONHR’s land exchange webpage at www.doi.gov/hawaiian/home-lands-exchanges. ONHR anticipates receiving the land exchange packet from DHHL before the consultation sessions.

Significant to the land exchange is the appraisal of the two properties as the HHCA requires that the land received into the Trust be of equal or greater value than the lands leaving the Trust. Honolulu City Council Resolution 22-131 available on ONHR’s land exchange webpage above, addressed the estimated market values and equalization payment necessary from the City to cover the difference in estimated market value.

Your information and input regarding the proposed land exchange will help inform DOI’s determination of whether the proposed land exchange is in the best interests of the Trust and the HHCA beneficiaries. We are particularly interested in your opinion on whether the proposed land exchange increases or decreases benefits to the HHCA beneficiaries and the Trust.

Please submit written comments by e-mailing ONHR at doi_onhr_hhl@ios.doi.gov with the **subject line “Proposed ‘Ewa Drum – Varona Village Land Exchange.”** Whether you support or oppose the proposed land exchange, an explanation of your reasons would greatly assist us in understanding your position. **The comment period closes on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 11:59 pm HST.**

We hope to hear from you within this approximately 60-day comment period. Should you have any questions, please contact us at doi_onhr_hhl@ios.doi.gov.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaiini Kaloi". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Ka‘i‘ini Kaloi
Director, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations