

Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference
"Access to Justice and the Time of COVID"
June 25, 2021

Workshop Summary¹

"Access to Justice and the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust"

Presenters: Summer Sylva (facilitator), David Kauila Kopper, Ashley Obrey, Henderson Huihui]

- Summer Sylva; Host/Executive Director
- Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; July 9th is the 100th Anniversary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act
- Returning Native Hawaiians to their Land
- Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole; The Hawaiian race is passing and if conditions continue to exist as they do today, this splendid race of my people will pass"
- Return Hawaiians to the land and provide financial support and improve conditions to the population
- Preserve values traditions and cultures of Native Hawaiians
- Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; The mission is to perpetuate, through legal and other advocacy, the rights, customs and practices that strengthen Native Hawaiian identity and culture.
- Fighting for them to receive fair compensation, at the very least
- Low cost legal help
- Guided by Hawaiian values, customs and ways of knowing

Ashley Obrey; Attorney

- HHC/DHHL Kuleana; Control over the Hawaiian Home lands trust corpus, qualifying beneficiaries, issuing leases and licenses, Approving transfer of leasehold interests

¹ This workshop summary was prepared by Prya Oliveira, Test Coordinator, Fair Housing Enforcement Program, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i.

Henderson Huihui; Attorney

- 4th generation Hawaiian homesteader in Waimanalo
- Equal Justice Works/NHLC Fellowship; legal services and advocacy, providing education, holding clinics to connect beneficiaries to legal and other services
- Overarching issues; is the program receiving funding to achieve goals?

David Kopper; Director of Litigation

- Grant total of 45,869 of Applications on Waiting List
- Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in homeless population
- Access to Justice, homestead is important to stability. The intent of the program was to get families on leases. The waitlist is still growing; the leases are not being issued at fast enough rates. Natives are not given support that they need by the state.
- Socioeconomic factors are driving the issues
- The State has priorities that may not line up with the Beneficiaries