



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

*The Voice For Real Estate®*

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September 26, 2007

The Honorable Daniel Akaka  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTOR®, we thank you for your work on H.R. 835, the “Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007.” Currently, Native Hawaiians experience high rates of overcrowding and homelessness. H.R. 835 will expand affordable homeownership opportunities to Native Hawaiians.

H.R. 835 will reauthorize HUD’s programs of housing assistance for Native Hawaiians through 2012. The legislation also makes several positive changes to these programs: the measure would streamline the application process for the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and would allow the Native Hawaiian Home Loan Guarantee program to be used for refinancing, as well as construction. Lastly, the bill would expand the authority of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to develop more affordable housing across Hawaii.

As a country, we must ensure that every citizen has access to safe, decent and affordable housing. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® believes that this must continue to be one of our nation’s highest priorities. We congratulate you for your leadership in spearheading passage of the bill in the Senate Banking Committee, and stand ready to work with you when the bill comes to the floor of the Senate.

Sincerely,

Pat V. Combs, ABR, CRS, GRI, PMN  
2007 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby  
The Honorable Christopher Dodd  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Richard Durbin  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Trent Lott