

12-10-99
EW Carter
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Testimony of a Kupuna

The scheduled hearings on Reconciliation and Reparations

Name - My name is Eleanor Kalawai'akamali'iwahineli'ili'i Simeona (Kimona Kuakahela Paka) Ahuna. I am a Kupuna and the President of Hui Ho'omau O Keaukaha Panaewa.

Address - I live at 171 King Ave. in Hilo, Hawai'i on Hawaiian Home Land in Keaukaha.

I write this in all respect to my family - my children - four sons and five daughters, and their spouses; thirteen grandsons, ten grand daughters and three great grand sons, a grandson in law and a grand daughter in law, and speak for them and the families of Hawai'i who do not write to testify in person, and or are not represented by any other person or organization.

We look at your scheduled hearing dates and times allowed for our people's participation and decry the fact that you are coming all the way from Washington D.C. and allowing us only three minutes in two hours set aside for oral testimony. This is an insult to our Nation who for over 106 years have suffered such burdensome losses that is incapable of being repaired in the given time allowed.

Your scheduled hearings on land losses, water losses, health, education and housing needs and losses of occupancy and asking us to analyze and put a dollar amount to our losses is a task of immense contention within our people as a Nation.

We have long lived our lives as a people of American citizenship. We have never had to learn our history as a people of Hawai'i in such haste and interest as we have had to within this year. Learning the truth of our Americanization leaves great numbers of our Native Hawaiians distressed, depressed, and oppressed. We are landless, poor, without an identity to truly say "I am Hawaiian", without actually knowing who we are as a Hawaiian.

Many young adults and teens and many of their parents too, do not know who they are as Hawaiians. They only know that they are Hawaiian by their ancestry and born in Hawai'i, but have very little or no knowledge at all about who or what being Hawaiian truly is, except the very strong innate spiritual strength that is deeply entrenched in God's love for us.

Economics and the American way of life required a job outside (or in) the home to raise and care for our family. Only people whose parents had agricultural or fishing or other Hawaiian life skills (knowledge) were able to teach their families the culture of Hawaiian lifestyle. Otherwise, all the Hawaiians lived as Americans in their lifestyle.

America has given us a democratic, free choice making life. Freedom is a choice, cherished gift, it is a gift from God to all people who live a righteous life with righteous laws.

Today we face a great decision making task. It is a labor of great deliberation. It must be done wisely and with the spirit of truth and determination that shall be the future fulfillment of a dethroned Queen who asked for intervention and return of the Kingdom of Hawai'i's Government 106 years ago in her plea to the United States. One hundred years later, in 1993, President

Clinton formally apologized for the great injustice - the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, as President Grover Cleveland had so desired one hundred years earlier as the President of the United States, but was not supported by the Congress of the United States.

The loss of Hawai'i's Government lost our Nation's very life! That loss of the life of the Nation was heavy. Statistics record great negativity in every aspect of social, economic, emotional, educational, medical, housing, cultural, land, water, fishing and gathering rights, access to beaches, and formerly important sites for worship and other cultural practices.

Lands, Kuleana or mahele, were lost through adverse possession or none payment of taxes by Owners unknowingly or who were unable to pay taxes in monetary means, in cash. It was not their culture to use cash to pay for taxes, for their taxes had always been paid for with "in kind" items ...ie... with agricultural products, handmade articles for the King's Kauhale (household) like lauhala mats, wooden bowls, tapa fabric for clothing or cover, woodwork, stonework or even feather work, food, pigs, fowl, and every acceptable item. The season of the Makahiki was their time for paying their taxes.

Our people never owned land in early history. Only the "Ali'i" owned lands. Lands were divided into districts called "Ahapua'a" divided again into smaller sections called "moku" further divided into "ili" and allowed to be used by the people. A "Konohiki" an overseer of the aina, was the supervisor over these lands. Lands were under stewardship to Hawaiians who worked on them and produced their food and resources necessary for daily living. Very industrious and intelligent they labored in their fields utilizing great wisdom in their

agricultural practices. They carefully planned their planting seasons to coincide with the journey of the moon, as well as their fishing trips. All of these practices we're done according to the moon's position in the heavens.

They used the resources of nature to sustain and strengthen their lifestyles. They survived with only what nature provided them for the many centuries before the great "Discovery".

Since the arrival of the Missionaries, Hawaiian's lifestyles changed. Fabric was used for clothing - Tapa kikepas or pa'u we're no longer allowed. The malo was no longer enough wear for the men. Clothing became "The Missionary" style. No longer were there any bare breasted women, or malo clad men. It became a no no - Our Kupuna had to dress fully clothed. They no longer were as strong and healthy in the long run. Their bodies were becoming used to being kept warm, and they had to cover up to the elements where before, their bodies were strong and could withstand the elements.

They lost their language very shortly after this. The language was put into alphabet and soon, English was being taught to the Hawaiian children - causing a conflict with parents and Kupuna with children.

The hula was not acceptable. It was suggestive, and unbecoming to behold and a kapu was placed on hula.

These practices began before the overthrow of the Government of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, but laid the foundation of all the pilikia that led to the overthrow. Our kupuna were considered to be heathens because their culture allowed them

to be who they were, with their own beliefs and culture. This was not "pono" to the eyes and minds of the Missionaries who had come to teach, preach and save them from their unchristian ways.

LAND and GOVERNANCE!!!!!!

Always the SEEDS for GREED and WAR!!!

Hawaii's history record the Great Mahele as being the time when King Kamehameha the Third allowed his people to receive land of their own. They could claim all the land they could walk and mark properly and identify within one day and have recorded with the proper office then. This was done because the "newcomers" were beginning to pressure the Government for land and changing our Alii's system of land ownership.

Many families were able to do this. Many were not. Once completed and recorded, a Royal Grant was recorded and lands thus received hold their rightful status til this day - however, if land taxes are not paid, they too are defaulted.

Many of these lands have been lost due to adverse possession too, when no one lived there.

The major reason for that was the exodus of Hawaiian families to the cities for cash paying jobs to pay for those taxes. Life there was not their style. Very soon they were a people destitute and lost. They became the dwellers in the slums of Honolulu and lost their Hawaiian lifestyle trying to become the people the American Missionaries had taught them to be - to become civilized, properly dressed, schooled in American type schools, be like them and lose their "heathen" ways. Our

O'hana lost their culture, their language, their land, and their inherent rights to use certain lands in certain places for worship, for gathering, for fishing, for hunting. Non payment of land taxes lost them their lands and laws created lost them access and or entire freedom to their aina. How sad to realize that the history of God's children in the Bible also became the real history of the downfall of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

The ills and horrendous negativity recorded pertaining to Hawaiians - a Nation of people with 50% or more of the blood quantum and less with the slightest percent of Hawaiian are loudly touted as being the poorest, the highest percent in prison, the lowest percent in the higher education and or earning capacity level, the highest percent in the homeless group, the landless, the teen pregnancies the highest percent with diseases of heart, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and people wonder why and how come?

Had the well meaning people, the early Missionaries, left the Hawaiians their freedom to live their lives in their ancestral ways, the Hawaiians would still be the most industrious, intelligent, caring, giving people in the world. Civilization in the way of the "discoverers" killed a Nation of people in the loss of their cultural strengths which gave them their guidelines to health, happiness and a very concise way of living. Their laws kept them in line. They were the very best conservationists, most industrious in cultivating their lands. They utilized the natural resources to survive. They had no need for anything for centuries. They had the best teacher - the Creator himself.

Now, we are a people dependent on the Government of the United States for our unfulfilled very unhappy lifestyle. We look for funds to assist our people in health, housing, education, economic development, agricultural, fishing, land, transportation needs in great numbers of millions of dollars. We are a burden to ourselves not of our own making. We are a responsibility of the Congress of the United States for the great injustice of the historic wrong doings of greedy, unscrupulous Missionary family members who in their desire to teach God's love to our Kupuna, became overcome with the evil desire to take away the greatness of a people unable to defend their lifestyle because those people came in the name of their God and Bible history was and is the history of Hawaii's Great Ills.

To undo this process is not going to happen in two days of hearings with only two hours of oral testimony. It cannot be done. We have so much to say to come to a wise decision. Without this time and the freedom to speak honestly with the representatives of the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior, in a more open time allowed for a better environment of presentation, the following are my answers to the following questions.

They are honest, hard wise decisions reached by deep deliberation after many meetings with people contending different avenues of how to best determine a situation's outcome. These decisions are strong, meaningful and answer the questions that create these problems. They are a general consensus of many people and groups, but not all. It is a tremendous arduous task to generate a united response for our people have all suffered in different ways and to different extents.

To the following issues and questions :

Note: How much? Is being asked in terms of area and money.

1. Lands – How much and how determined?

Which lands - All the “Ceded Lands” the “Crown Lands” and the Government Lands so defined when designated before the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai’i in 1893. All lands granted as Mahele and Kuleana lands in 1847 occupied and possessed by adverse possession and or non payment of taxes with or without the knowledge of legal owners.

2. Water – Where and how determined and how much?

All the sources of water existing since before the overthrow and all improvements and new water resources ^{created} ~~created~~ since for the sources of the water all come from the land ...ie... water ditches, wells, and so forth.

3. Hawaiian Nation/Government?

Hawaiian Nation with the Government of the Kingdom of Hawaii which was in force before the overthrow of Queen Lili’uokalani. Research and facts find the Hawaiian Kingdom laws are still valid and in force today.

4. Level of Sovereignty/Sovereignty?

State Land Special
Nation Within a Nation
Independent

To be decided later

**Regulatory Powers Over
State, Federal, Private Lands?
Over What? For how Long?**

To be discussed and decided later.

5. **Cash Reparations (Payments?)**
a. **Lands? How much? How determined?**

All lands as listed in number one above.

- b. **Water? How to determine Value?**

All listed in number two above.

- c. **Past Occupation? How to determine Value?**

See Below

- d. **Federal Entitlements-
Education, Health and Housing Funding?**

See Below

- e. **Blood Quantum? Yes? No?**

How to be determined? Yes- with at least one percent of the blood of our ancestors.

No- if legally adopted or a hanai child as was the custom of Hawaii of old.

f. Entity to Control Land? Cash?

Non-Profit? Corporate? Hawaiian Nation? Other?
To be decided later.

g. Other demands to write into a Federal Bill

Language must and shall depict the loss of the values of a Nation of people, honorable, kind, gentle, generous, loving, caring and giving. Sadly, the colonization spirit of the Americans created the loss of a proud intelligent, industrious, compassionate Nation of People into a poor, highly criticized, non industrious, lazy, unintelligent, uneducated, aggressive non law abiding, contentious people. How strange a great change and how great our sorrow – TRAGIC!

Hawai'i is a special, very unique Land. Hawaiians are a special, very unique choice people. They were chosen to be the people to come to this distant, isolated land on purpose.

The lands, the water and all the natural resources are God's gift - a great reward for an obedient people who lived in an island paradise in deep isolation from the world. They were brought here by divine direction and taught the worth and use of all that nature had created and ready for their use. They learned to truly live independently within the confines of their island boundaries. They worked together, lived together, helped each other and cared for each other. Their teacher had the greatest credentials. He was the "TEACHER."

History records others came later with diverse philosophies and lifestyles and the serenity of the Government changed. - impacted the land, its people and its lifestyle.

When America's people came later on, the greatest changes developed. Thus our history of disillusioned, defeated, people with losses of self esteem, self sufficiency, self determination, cultural strengths, land and lifestyles was so overwhelming and today finds our people still struggling to find ourselves.

This issue of Reconciliation and Reparation is an awesome task. Out of the free choices God gave each person, many different opinions and decisions shall be presented, and so it shall be.

The greatest loss we Hawaiians have lost is the loss of our "Identity." We are listed as Pacific Islanders / Asians on the Census Rolls of America. We are not listed as Hawaiians. Our Culture, our entire essence of being Hawaiian is lost.

For this great loss we claim all of the above listed assets, as they are of Hawaii - naturally and definitely embraced by these islands here in the middle of the great Pacific Ocean.

Further, for all the human suffering, losses of land, water rights, gathering, fishing, hunting, access to native sites for worship or other cultural practices, and for the loss of our language usage and cultural practices we come to you with an answer that may solve our problems and help you repair and make proper reimbursements.

1. All the lands, water sources, cultural sites;
2. The occupancy and loss of Hawaii's Kingdom and Government recognized as Sovereign through out the world;
3. The loss of the Nation of Hawaii's peoples' dignity, self worth and identity.
4. The great damage to our generation of youth who suffer the stigma placed on their ancestors' losses and who struggle now to regain their mana as Hawaiians today.
5. The great dilemma of having lost the "heart beat" and the "soul" of a once great Nation of industrious, intelligent, kind, generous, loving people.
6. The needed handouts we have been forced to request from the Congress of the United States for funds to educate, heal and build homes for our people had to be done and prayed for fervently, because the United States declared no responsibility as "Trustee" over our Nation, giving us no political identity even as beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Commission Act, created by the U.S. Congress in 1920, after many hard years of lobbying and pushing for its passage by our last Royal Ali'i, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

Just recently, Congress has recognized us, the Native Hawaiians, as a truly "Indigenous" people of the Hawaiian Islands and now come to seek ways to repair their long standing disclaimer.

We have at long last gained that recognition. We now thank them for this opportunity to voice and write our deep feelings and concerns and say what we truly feel shall repair the Broken Trust.

Cash Reparation

In answer to all listed above and for all issues listed below it, we say all of those issues listed (as natural resources) Plus a Cash Reparation as recorded below.

A Cash Reparation shall be paid to the Government of the People of Hawaii as a Nation;

The payment shall be made annually for a total of one hundred and six years following the negotiations and approval in the amount of Five Billion dollars a year for one hundred and six years into the year 2107 AD, for a total of \$530,000,000,000.00

This Cash Reparation shall be used to build the Nation of Hawaii back to its status of proper identity as the Nation of Hawaii, and further,

The United States of America shall be the Military Protector of Hawaii for the same length of time for the strategic positions of Hawaii on the world's Technological/Nuclear, unsafe Military conditions. It shall be a top priority that America be Hawaii's Military Quadra. *Guardian.*

With this financial settlement, and full Military protection, our Hawaiian demoralized nation shall be rejuvenated, revitalized, reenergized and the light of pono shall shine brightly to honor the declaration of our beloved Queen Lili'uokalani that "her God would in time correct the great wrong done to her government and the people of Hawaii."

The rebuilding of Hawaii's Kingdom shall entail the trust of the best minds focused on the correct form of Government for the Nation. Many precepts of autonomy shall fill the discussions, and we as a people shall need added time to decide on the Level of Sovereignty to be formed. This shall be a point that shall need to be considered fully.

Deliberations shall be solemn and pono. We need precious time to call for the United efforts of people to come and sit in conference for this shall be our most important responsibility...To reunite our Nation under God. Ke Akua shall help us.

The issues of concerns shall be greatly presented with pertinent history and recommendations. All who shall testify shall do so with great concerns and anxiety for the lack of time to properly address their wants and needs in your hearings.

I would request now that the Hawaiian Nation be given at least six months to a year to decide on the level of Sovereignty to declare in this decision. All the people must have a say and this can only be done by a nationwide survey in every form of media available to reach us in

an intensive coverage, to be properly informed and come together as a Nation.

This is most important. You must allow us the necessary time to get to all of our people to clearly state our need to decide for ourselves how our lives shall be impacted by the choice of Governance we choose.

Granted, this, we shall begin our work on Monday, January 3, 2000.

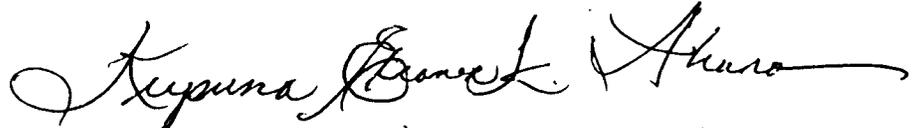
This, in essence is my testimony. It is written with great respect for the opportunity given us and for the reasons recorded herein, and to my colleagues in planning who strongly feel otherwise. As a Kupuna Wahine, I share the strong realities of the real world.

So much are owed to us. We have a long history of being badly compensated by the Government, be it the County, the State and the Federal Government. No trust has been truly executed between us as Native People and the Governing bodies. We must act with great faith now that the world is looking at a very, very Peaceful, Rightful, long lasting unrighteous wrong, the Overthrow of a Sovereign Nation's Government being restored, and the return of the Government of the Kingdom of Hawai'i be reactivated legally and lawfully at this time in our lives.

With all the unfortunate, very sad, sorrowful terrible warfare that other countries go through to regain or gain their peace, We Hawaiians must and shall praise God, Our Almighty Heavenly Father for this peaceful exercise of Reconciliation and Reparation process that we are now engaged in and work at it with great faith.

Mahalo Ke Akua a Pomaika'i - ia kakou a pau.

Me ke aloha pau'ole,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kupuna Eleanor K. Ahuna". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

**Kupuna Eleanor K. Ahuna
Hui Ho'omau O Keaukaha Panaewa
President**