

Clinton R. Ashford  
45-628 Halekou Place  
Kaneohe, HI. 96744  
[cashford@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cashford@hawaii.rr.com)

KSK

Mr. John Berry  
c/o Document Management Unit  
The Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Mailstop 7024  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: "Reconciliation" Hearings in Hawaii

Gentlemen:

I was born and raised in Hawaii and have practiced law here for nearly 50 years. I am firmly opposed to any "reparations" being paid, or other entitlements being bestowed upon, Hawaiians solely on the basis of race. Aside from being unconstitutional, there is no justification for claims that Hawaiians, as distinguished from other citizens of Hawaii, were deprived of anything by the bloodless Hawaiian Revolution of 1893 when Queen Liliuokalani was deposed.

My grandfather emigrated to Hawaii in 1883 from Canada via California. By letters of denization, King Kalakaua granted him full privileges of a native born citizen. His three children, including my father, had those same privileges by virtue of birth here. But grandfather and his brother not only lost theirs by provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Hawaii (Article 19, section 3), they also were exiled from Hawaii by reason of being implicated in the failed 1895 counter-revolution to reseate the Queen.

No individual Hawaiian lost land by virtue of the 1893 revolution, and all native born citizens suffered or profited (according to one's point of view) alike as a result of that political action. Even the claims of the Queen, who lost her throne and the income from the crown lands, were adjudicated in favor of the United States. *Liliuokalani v. The United States*, 45 Ct. Cl. 418 (1910). Neither the revolution nor anything that has happened since justifies privileged or punitive treatment of Hawaiians solely by virtue of blood -- of whatever quantum. My four children and six grandchildren, all of whom were born, raised and continue to reside in Hawaii, and some of whom are of mixed Asiatic and Caucasian ancestry, as well as other citizens of Hawaii, deserve the same treatment. See the enclosed copy of a recent letter to the Editor of the Honolulu Advertiser for a more full exposition of the historical and legal reasons for equal treatment.

The 1993 Apology Resolution passed by the United States Congress is replete with inaccuracies. The "invented history" that was foisted on Congress by the drafters of that

Resolution is fiction. The same can and must be said of similar inaccuracies written into three bills now pending before Congress: S225, S1767 and S1929. It is apparent that those of us who wish truth to be recognized, false claims exposed and equal treatment assured for all citizens of Hawaii, regardless of race, have a long row to hoe.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clinton R. Ashford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clinton R. Ashford