

## TESTIMONY OF ROY L. BENHAM

### NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Education has always been very important to the Hawaiian people. I can remember my Kupuna emphasizing how important it was to get a good education. Unfortunately, many of our Native Hawaiian people did not have the opportunity to receive encouragement and assistance in their educational efforts. Many of them had to begin earning a living as soon as they were adults and could not improve their education levels. Fortunately, today, more opportunities are available to Native Hawaiians to receive financial assistance for attaining a higher level of formal education. The Native Hawaiian people, the Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's Trust, and the Federal Government have contributed to this effort significantly, but more needs to be done. The Kamehameha Schools' policy of admitting Native Hawaiians only must be continued. All of us must do what we can to continue this educational opportunity for Native Hawaiian children.

### POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

I would also like to address the political relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiians. First of all, the Hawaiians must come together and establish a political entity that can be recognized by the U. S. for now. We must work together to establish a totally inclusive entity that can be truly representative of the people it serves. Granted, after we establish an entity, we must negotiate with the U. S. as to its implementation. Concessions must be made on both sides. As a Native Hawaiian, I will say that these concessions will be for "today" and not forever. Whatever we take from our entity during this implementation stage will be reinstated at a more appropriate time. As a member of the Native Hawaiian Constitution Convention, (Aha Hawai'i 'O'iwi), we will continue to provide information to all Hawaiians so that they can make informed decisions.

Dr. Myron Berney, ND, L.Ac.  
908 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Honolulu, Hi 96816

(808) 735-5133

Hawaiian Affairs, Reconciliation, Restitution, Sovereignty, Indian Status

Dept. of Interior  
Mr. M. John Berry  
Assistant Sec. Of Policy Management and Budget  
Interior Bldg, Rm 6130  
Washington, DC 20240

Phone: 202-208-3100

Senate Indian Affairs, Sen. Bennighthorse Campbell  
838 Hart Bldg.  
Washington, DC  
20510-6450

Dear Sirs:

Recently there have been public meetings held in Hawaii with the State Legislative members and DoJ Interior and Indian affairs. It is not clear to me that there has been representation or advocacy for persons of non-Hawaiian Ancestry at these "public meetings". In that sense it isn't completely clear to me that the general public has had their constitutional rights protected. *Violated*

There is clearly an ongoing dispute in Hawaii concerning Native vs. non-native rights. In fact, there is endemic broad based discrimination directed against non-"local" persons especially persons from the mainland, the contiguous 48 states, who are labeled as "haoli". Kill Haoli Day is a local ethnic discriminatory tradition that exists in spirit if not in actual practice similar to KKK activities on the mainland. In fact Hawaii is the only place on the planet where Black persons are treated equally as White persons, both of which are subject to racial discrimination and racial violence. Discrimination based upon racial ancestry is illegal under HRS as an additional class of protected individuals.

There is a historical dispute between the ideas promoted by Hawaiian Sovereignty groups and Bishop Estate Kamehameha Schools *vs* and the Bishop Museum.

Initially there is a fundamental question in the protection of the civil liberties and rights of the majority of citizens of the State that has not been addressed in any of the public discussions.