

JKK
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These are my life experiences and insights on the sovereignty issue:

As I may have stated previously, I grew up at a time when "being Hawaiian" was not popular. As children, we weren't allowed to speak the local dialect, just English. There was no history of our beginnings or understanding of our culture. We heard bits and pieces. I did get a taste of my culture when attending Kamehameha School, thanks to Princess Bernice Pauahi. This I clung to.

As circumstances would have it, I spent 34 years on the mainland. Having grown up in a loving, accepting culture, I experienced for the first time in my life, racial slurs, lewd remarks and humiliation at the hands of enlightened people. When one person or culture does not take the time to listen to and learn about another's---who is showing ignorance? Scores of people have come here, some to settle, because they are accepted with no conditions.

When I first learned of the Sovereignty issue, which was long overdue, my gut reaction was that it would not work. One thing I did know was that Hawaiians are hard-headed, hot-blooded, and could never resolve differences. My family chose to become enlightened and meshed with the haoles. Maybe I lost my true Hawaiianess, but, I now know there must be compromise. I do not wish to see Hawaii as a "Welfare State". If some got out and worked they should not be punished for it. This wait and see attitude has kept those who chose it shackled and bitter as witnessed in the hearings.

We were illegally joined to the U.S. (my family opposed Annexation), but now we must work together for the good of All who live here. I believe respect of who we are individually as well as who we are collectively, and what we stand for and believe in will produce more, than demanding what once was. To the foolish who cannot see this---all is lost. We must remember that the haole was not alone in the takeover.

The will of Princess Bernice Pauahi should not be tampered with, as no other will can, if it were properly drawn. The U.S. Government does owe the people of Hawaii restitution or rent for use of its lands. When withdrawing troops, they should return said lands back to the State as they do to all countries they have occupied. And, not just the worthless plots, but, the prime commercially advantaged lands as well. I.e. Fort DeRussy in Waikiki. It was given in good faith and appreciation for the security provided to our people. You see, we are no longer willing to settle for beads or shiny objects!

This is a very complex problem, but with patience and clear and positive thinking, it can be solved. All of our interests are at stake.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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