

Received  
12-11-99  
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Aloha, My name is Katherine Kahiwalani Bush and I am here to testify on behalf of my family. My Mother was Grace Kawaihala Paekukui Bush and my father was Kaala Archer Bush. My mother was one of 8 children and her parents were Joseph Kaiaana Kapaekukuikahilinai and Julia Kaniaulani Kekaula Paekukui. My mother, her 4 brothers and 3 sisters are all dead. On my father's side, he was 1 of 21 Children born to Samuel Keliinohopono Bush, Sr. and Ada Ekekela Keawe Williams Bush. There is only one brother living today. I am here today to represent my great, great grandparents, My great grandparents, My grandparents, my parents & their brothers and sisters and my 2 brothers and 4 sisters and my two children, & my two grandchildren. All together there are 12 living and 45 that are dead. I am here to represent the dead and to let you know that we definitely need help. I had 2 uncles who cut both legs, I also had two cousins.....beautiful Hawaiian - Caucasian women cut 2 legs and all 4 are dead. Of myself and 6 siblings,.....6 of us have been diagnosed with diabetes. My maternal grandmother and 1 of her daughters went blind. Diabetes has devastated my family! I am here to plead to you that we need help! Not only my family.....but our kupunas, the children and the moopuna's.....Many do not have any Type of medical insurance. Many cannot afford the prescriptions because they don't have money. Many of the health problems have the Hawaiians as the number 1 target group.....for example, DIABETES, HEART TROUBLE, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH CHOLESTEROL, ALL THE VARIOUS TYPES OF CANCERS, HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES and etc. We are truly a race that is headed for extinction!

I would also like to touch on Education for Hawaiians. I am a single parent of one son and one daughter, I am a grandmother of one grandson and one granddaughter. I am also 90% Hawaiian and 10% Haole or Caucasian. But, I would like to touch on Education. As a parent and grandparent, I believe that education is our way to salvation. I believe that every Hawaiian deserves to go to college! In fact, it is a must that every child has a higher education. And we as parents, it is our duty to push our kids, to prepare them for College and we need to make the sacrifices if need be. You know for years my son was going to public school here in Hawaii and for years he believed what others had said about Hawaiians.....they're not smart they are lazy and they never amount to anything! With all of this negative thinking, my son thought that it is impossible for him to go to college. For one thing, where would the money come from? Another thing is my grades were average, would a college accept me? Many questions arose. But we worked on the obstacles. He was able to get a football scholarship from Linfield College in Oregon. He was one of the lucky ones. Each year he went to school in Oregon, his grade point average rose higher than the year before. And during his senior year, he made the honor roll and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in a dual major: Physical Education and Health. Today, he is a teacher at Moanalua High School. One of the best reasons for pushing my son to get his college degree is because I wanted him to be able to take care of his family, I didn't want to see him digging ditches. Today, the Construction business is practically nil. There are no jobs. Again, Mr. Berry and Mr. Van Norman, we need more monies to be made available to send our kids to college. In sending our kids to schools on the mainland, cost gets even greater because of the airfare, the need for winter clothes, higher tuitions and the need for rent monies on a monthly basis.

We definitely need help with many things but I personally believe that the Federal Government owe the Hawaiian people a better life. You took our lands and did not pay a cent for it! You took our livelihood and made us dependent upon YOU! We are people of a humble and forgiving heart. We are the people that are known for the "aloha spirit." We need our lands back, even our State, who has only been a state for 40 years, think that they own the lands. We, the Hawaiian People of these lands are the rightful heirs to our queen's lands. Please do not wait another 6 years to process this reconciliation. Too many Hawaiians have died with nothing to call their own, no life, no land.....not a thing! Mahalo, for hearing my testimony.

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