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KSK

August 28, 2000

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Attention: Jenny Chock,

TESTIMONY BY LINDA K. DELA CRUZ

SENATE BILL 2899

INTRODUCTION

Please refer to the enclosed testimony to Assistant
Secretary John Berry.

Comments:

We support Senator Daniel Akaka and Senator Daniel Inouye's
Senate Bill 2899. The only thing we ask is, delete the
word, "native" and define us as "Hawaiian" and make us
one race of people.

Mahalo a nui loa. Thank you very much.

ALOHA !!!!

1. This Resolution fails to address the problem of, "One Race of People". For years, I lobbied at the state legislature to make us, "one race of people", so far, I ended up with a Hawaiian Geneology Bank in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
2. In the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, a native Hawaiian must have 50% or more Hawaiian blood to qualify for benefits. In the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, there are 2 definitions of Hawaiians.
3. For decades, the 50% vs. the less than 50% have been at odds with each other and it is time to become "one race of people" and stop fighting among ourselves.
4. Congress made us a divided nation so, Congress you fix it up.
5. Recommendation 1 - Federal Recognition

WE CONCUR, except:

Please stop calling us "native". Everyone born in Hawaii is a native Hawaiian regardless of whether they have the Hawaiian blood or no Hawaiian blood.

Our ancestors were known as "Hawaiian". In the past, we have been identified by many names, like, native, aborigine, indigenous, Indians, Eskimos, etc.. Is it so bad to just call us Hawaiians?

6. Recommendation 2 - Office of Native Hawaiian
Issues at Interior

WE CONCUR

How about establishing a Bureau of Hawaiian
Affairs. The word bureau sounds very Federal.

7. Recommendation 3 - Assignment of Office of
Tribal Justice

We donot concur. Not necessary.

8. Recommendation 4 - Native Hawaiian Advisory
Commission

We Concur

9. Recommendation 5 - True Reconciliation

We Concur

Mahalo a nui loa. Thank you very much.

ALOHA!!!