

Reconciliation Committee  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C 20240

KSK

1-5-00

Asst. Secretary Berry and Associates:

Regarding the process of "reconciliation" between the Native Hawaiian people and the occupying force of the United States of America here in the archipelago of Hawai'i, two very crucial concepts must be considered.

First, to call what has happened to Native Hawaiians here by the proper legal term, for domestic and international purposes, that being "cultural genocide," a crime which is considered intolerable by the United Nations charter on Human Rights. In addition to having their native royal culture brutally suppressed by the United States of America, Native Hawaiians have been subjected to the classic genocidal strategies of stolen land rights, outlawed language and religious practices, and military occupation.

Secondly, the situation of the Native Hawaiian people and the archipelago of Hawai'i is a special legal responsibility of the United States of America to which the precedents of other relationships with Native peoples, territories, and "Statehoods" do not necessarily apply. Since the "overthrow" of an intact government with which the U.S.A. had treaty relationships in 1893, namely the Kingdom of Hawai'i, was a breach of both domestic and international law, and since the process of "annexation" which followed was similarly imposed on the Native Hawaiian people under protest, and more recently, the vote of "Statehood" was flawed under international law, not including the option of independence, the occupation of the islands of the Lawful Kingdom of Hawai'i is a special legal case which should be considered as unprecedented, and completely separate from the business of the continental territory of the United States.

The current forum for public dialogue is dominated by economic interests of the United States, and at this time the opinions of Native Hawaiians are overtly suppressed in the mass media, both here in Hawai'i and in the United States. Effort is underway, as has been standard for the past century, to discredit, divide, smear, and ridicule the leaders of the Hawaiian community. In short, the voice of the Native Hawaiian culture has been distorted and squelched for over 100 years, and now that the recent hearings on reconciliation opened a window of freedom, the overwhelming ideal expressed was for Hawaiian INDEPENDENCE.

While the economic interests of the U.S.A. will argue that the military

occupation and imposed "Statehood" of the last century has secured a "free market" and the protected status of "democracy" in the United States, the fact remains that Native Hawaiian people have lost their self-determination, their rich royal heritage, the vast majority of their native lands, the economic share of the exploitation of their resources, and recognition on the world stage, all stolen at the behest of "Uncle Sam" and his military forces.

My personal suggestion for a first step in this reconciliation process, in addition to free expression by Native Hawaiian leaders, is the return of the so-called "Pohakuloa Military Training and Bombing Area" on the slopes of the sacred volcano Mauna Kea, a military occupation (abuse) so vast and despicable as to be considered blatantly culturally genocidal, just as the horrific bombing of the island of Kaho'olawe was. This area, rich in endangered native species and habitat, should be returned to the sovereign Native Hawaiians, just as Kaho'olawe was. This would be a significant, symbolic step by an occupying imperial force, and would give a sense of sacred intent to further reconciliation. Continued bombing of Mauna Kea will be considered a violation of cultural and environmental decency, as well as international law!

I commend the Clinton administration for taking this initiative of reconciliation, following on the 1993 apology bill. Now, for the new millennium, it is time to "put your money where your mouth is" and take bold action to rectify this century-long criminal occupation of the Hawaiian archipelago.

As a matter of record, I am a Welsh-American supporter of the Lawful Kingdom of Hawai'i, studying Hawaiian culture and language at the University of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



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