

December 9, 1999

RECONCILIATION TESTIMONY

OF

CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.

PRESIDENT

ON BEHALF OF

E OLA MAU

Assistant Secretary M. John Berry
c/o Document Management Unit
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 7229
Washington D.C. 20240

Aloha Mr. Berry,

My name is Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, MD, President of E Ola Mau, a nonprofit corporation of Native Hawaiian Health Care Providers dedicated to improving the health of Native Hawaiians. We are testifying in support of establishing an office within the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues in order to enable continuing dialogue, and continuity in a working relationship between the Federal Government and the Native Hawaiian people regarding Reconciliation.

We support the establishment of a framework for addressing long-standing issues of self-determination, economic empowerment, ceded lands, reparations, and all other issues pertaining to injustices against the Native Hawaiian people resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Since our incorporation in 1986, E Ola Mau has consistently advocated for culturally appropriate delivery of health care services to Native Hawaiians. The landmark study, from which our name is derived, documented for the first time the abysmal health status of Native Hawaiians in our *aina hanau* (native land, birthplace).

As a member of the Board of Papa Ola Lokahi, E Ola Mau has watched the struggling emergence of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems. We continue to advocate for coordination of health care services between the Native Hawaiian Health Systems and other providers within Hawaii's health care community.

The mission of E Ola Mau which means "live on" is to ensure that Native Hawaiians achieve *Lokahi*—the healthful harmony of self with others and with all of nature—and function effectively as citizens and leaders of our *aina* (land). Hawaiian culture recognizes the interdependence of individual physical health and wellness, and wellness with the community in which one lives. The Reconciliation process must incorporate this basic concept.

E Ola Mau will continue its mission by developing culturally appropriate health education curriculum, gathering and analyzing Native Hawaiian health statistics for the purposes of research development and resource allocation recommendations, and consulting and collaborating with other Native Hawaiian agencies regarding health care issues.

As a member of the Boards of Hui Imi, Hawaiian Services Institutions and Agencies (HSIA), and Papa Ola Lokahi, we encourage increasing collaboration among Native Hawaiian agencies for the greater good of the Native Hawaiian people.

E Ola Mau is committed to working with these agencies and the Federal Government in the Reconciliation Process.

Pupukahi I Holomua
(Unite in Order to Progress!)

E OLA MAU



Chiyome L. Fukino, M.D.
President, E Ola Mau Board of Directors