

MERRIE CAROL GRAIN
P.O. Box 696
Honolulu, HI 96809

Sept. 16, 2000

Mr. John Berry
Assistant Secretary,
Dept. of the Interior
Document Management Unit
1849 C St., NW
Mail Stop 7229
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Berry:

I am writing to voice my opposition to any "reconciliation" regarding the people of Hawaii.

I was born in Hawaii and have lived here all of my life except for a couple of years when I was away at school. I have great love for these islands and ALL of the people who reside here. I also feel that things have been blown way out of proportion and that history is being rewritten at a fantastic rate these days.

Culturally speaking, some of the most vocal Hawaiian women would literally have been put to death in the past, in the culture they glorify as being so perfect, because they are "commoners" and also because they are women. They couldn't even sit down and eat meals with their men, nor eat certain foods without the death penalty. For men, women and children, there was the death penalty if their shadow crossed the path of an ali's (chief/royalty) shadow. Gee, what an idyllic life they had, eh?

Furthermore, nobody owned land back then. All these folks are squawking about "their" land being stolen, and how they want it back—well, the truth is, they never had any to begin with! Life in Hawaii was a feifdom, and the only ownership was in the hands of the ali. To hear the average Hawaiian person tell it, he/she is "descended from royalty"... well come on, SOMEBODY had to be a commoner, but you'll never hear anyone admit to being such!

Basically, they were slaves, and the royalty took the spoils, so to speak, in terms of the land and what was grown on it.

You'll also never hear any of the Hawaiians admit that there was an aboriginal people ALREADY HERE when the Hawaiians migrated to these islands. The Hawaiians promptly captured and enslaved them, and they were known as the "kaus". They were slaves, they were never allowed to mingle or intermarry with

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regular Hawaiians, and when a human sacrifice was needed and no captured prisoners of war were available, a kaula was selected to be sacrificed. They were so looked down upon that you rarely hear them mentioned. It's bad enough that no Hawaiian admits to being anything but "royalty", but you'll never hear one admit to being "kaula", either.

Speaking of prisoners of war, King Kamehameha is glorified as being the one who "united" the islands. Well, think about this for a minute. He "united" them and ended the fighting, sure enough, but only because he got to be THE ruler. It was ruthless and bloody, and he just happened to be the guy who won. Sure, it was "peaceful" after that, but only because Kamehameha got to be in charge. It was not a peaceful, loving society as you've been led to believe.

The royalty/monarchs who succeeded him sold as well as gave away much of the land themselves, so to say it was all "stolen" by the U.S. is absurd and a convenient way to instigate fervor among the more radical and outspoken Hawaiians. Certain Hawaiian monarchs were so busy consuming alcohol (sure, it was brought in from outside, but the Hawaiians already had their own alcoholic beverage of choice (called "okolehao"), made from their own ti plants, that many official duties went ignored while they frolicked and flew kites (*literally* flew kites). The reason we have no sandalwood left in these islands is that one of the kings made his own subjects cut every tree they could find in the native forests to ship off to the Orient in exchange for money and material goods. The stripping of the forests was not done by the vilified white man, it was done by Hawaiians.

The Hawaiians are NOT a perfect people. They are guilty of many of their own tragic mistakes and behaviors, but are choosing instead to lay full blame on anyone else, especially the United States. It is a benefit of free speech afforded them by U.S. citizenship which allows them to verbalize their hatred of America, when in their own culture less than two centuries ago they could have been killed for talking in this manner.

One man told me on the phone this week how much he hates "the white man" and in the same conversation was telling me how much he gets each year from Social Security (an American federal program) because of the disability he was born with. What would he have done if he'd been born with these same severe disabilities a couple of hundred years ago???

Speaking of health matters—another subject the militants like to dump on the United States—in the "old days" here in Hawaii, "large was beautiful", and thinness wasn't as desired as obesity, to put it plainly. There are prints made by early exploration illustrators, even depicting the queen, at the time, and she was not what you'd call "petite"! We all know that obesity is a severe health problem leading to many complications, but this was the case even before the U.S. was in Hawaii. As to health matters these days, there is information on health available for free in the libraries (paid for by our—and my—taxes); as well as in schools,

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community centers, clinics. This information is on television, radio and in newspapers. Is it really "the white man's" fault that even with all of this information out there, individuals and families still choose to drink their soda and beer, eat chips, fry their food and basically eat junk? Nobody is forcing them to do that. Anyone here can eat a traditional Hawaiian diet; there's plenty of rice, fish, vegetables, fruit and poi to go around. The Hawaiians are just as guilty of succumbing to a junk food diet as are any "typical" American families who choose convenience over sensible choices. Heck, even I eat "poi"— I was raised on it by my "American" parents, and love it like it's a pudding dessert, but I know Hawaiians who hate it and won't touch the stuff, or who don't like to eat fish!

Sadly, most Hawaiians do NOT agree with the militant ones who can get the money together to go to DC. These militants embarrass the others with their actions and their rhetoric. Many of the older Hawaiians as well as younger ones simply do not agree regarding reparations, reconciliation or anything else. They fully realize the benefits of U.S. citizenship, Social Security, the freedoms they have, and how much better Hawaii is as part of the U.S. than it would be under any other country. Truly, if the U.S. did not have Hawaii in its family, some other country would have claimed it by now (Japan in WWII, or perhaps the Spanish before that, Russia, Britain, etc.). Hawaii would never have been left to itself, and the results of a relationship with any other country could have been much, much "worse" than the traumas the militants are claiming under the American flag.

There were people who tried to give testimony in December, and they were shouted down or not allowed time to speak. Some of them weren't shown on television, although the militants certainly were. I know several Hawaiian families who are embarrassed and angered at the behavior of the militant Hawaiians. They recognize and fully appreciate the benefits and conveniences and better lifestyle they have due to American ingenuity and influence (everything from Coca Cola to paved roads, cars, Levi's, T-shirts, television, radios and computers—to kidney transplants which save lives!

I feel "reparations" are racist and violate the Civil Rights of the rest of the residents of these islands. I feel that even the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is illegal in its existence, for the same reason. I also intend to ask for an OHA ballot in our upcoming election, because as a U.S. citizen and as a lifelong resident of Hawaii, I feel I have the right to vote on matters which affect Hawaii. I know many others who also intend to request an OHA ballot for the same reasons, even though they are non-Hawaiian.

As a lifelong resident in Hawaii (I was born here when Hawaii was still a "territory") and as a U.S. citizen, and because my taxes are affected by your decision, I emphatically state that I am against reconciliation, reparations or any other such concession to these militant Hawaiians who are rewriting history and who are violating my civil rights in their racist efforts.

PH-H

There is Osage Indian blood in my family, and I can tell you that the Osage truly suffered in ways the Hawaiians cannot even imagine. The Hawaiians have never starved to death on the plains, frozen to death on barren land in winters, had children forcibly removed from families or any of the other true injustices suffered in the past. It angers me and angers my mainland Osage relatives when the Hawaiians conveniently compare themselves to the American Indians. Hey, the Hawaiians had it so much better in comparison, that it's infuriating for them to want to latch onto the Indians' coattails. It's time for the Hawaiians to get off the "poor me" train, leave the "pity party" they've been throwing for themselves for years, and be glad they're who they are, where they are. (They could be in Bosnia or Sierra Leone, now *that's* modern day suffering, for you!).

I urge you to consider that this is a racial and biased and historically rewritten situation which threatens the civil rights of the majority of the population in Hawaii. I am including newspaper articles and letters to show you that there are many people who are urging the same thing: that you not violate OUR civil rights, common sense and REAL historic facts to pamper the radical minority.

Sincerely,



Merrie Carol Grain
Encl: news articles/editorial letters

Cc: Hawaii Delegation to DC: Inouye/Akaka/Abercrombie/Mink

We already have sovereignty

Hawaii joined the United States legally, and by popular acclaim, and even the Kingdom of Hawaii considered that move.

One of the good things about the Kingdom of Hawaii was its inclusiveness. By all indications, it welcomed people from other countries as citizens and residents and gave all of its citizens equal rights (except for the ruling class, which had special rights).

KA HULIAU: TIME OF CHANGE

One of the bad things about the kingdom was its limitations on property rights, which even the Great Mahele did not solve. Toward the end of the kingdom, the monarchy held much of the land, which had previously been the sole property of the monarchy in trust for the people of Hawaii — all the people of Hawaii, not just certain ethnic groups.

This trust has been continued by the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii, but it has been "reinterpreted" to mean that the previous crown lands are to be held in trust for the ethnic Hawaiians or the descendants of the people who were in residence at the time of first European contact. (Whether they were, in fact, the original residents is open to question.)

For various reasons (among which was the attempt by Queen

ISLAND VOICES

ROBERT A. GOULD

Robert A. Gould lives in Kaneohe.

Liliuokalani to change the constitution so she could appoint the members of the House of Nobles rather than have the citizens elect them), some citizens of Hawaii staged a coup that overthrew the monarchy and declared a republic. This coup was, of course, illegal — until it succeeded.

All coups, rebellions and conquests are by definition illegal until they succeed. The conquest of Maui and Oahu by Kamehameha was similarly illegal until it was successful. If one is going to try to rectify illegal seizures of governments, one will be going down a slippery road into prehistory.

The point is that once the coup was successful and generally recognized, the Kingdom of Hawaii ceased to exist. The successor government asked for annexation, and its successor government asked for statehood. All of these actions were legal, and the statehood issue was overwhelmingly approved by the citizens of Hawaii.

Some Hawaiians, such as Morris Hauole in the Aug. 20 Advertiser, insist that "Hawaiians had their land stolen." Exactly what land do these people refer to?

■ The crown lands, which were originally held in trust for all the people of Hawaii and are now held in trust for the primary benefit of those people of a certain ethnic Hawaiian blood quantum?

■ Their personal property to which they had title?

■ The land that passed legally through sale, gift or inheritance from the ali'i, and to which the claimants had no original title?

■ Or is it really some nebulous feeling that "we" used to live here all by ourselves, and now we feel that others outnumber us?

We already live in a sovereign country — the United States. We joined the United States legally, and by popular acclaim, and even the Kingdom of Hawaii considered that move. We have more freedom and property rights under the U.S. Constitution than the citizens of the Kingdom of Hawaii ever had.

It is time to stop the divisive moves inflamed by half-truths and lies fostered by certain individuals hungry for power and influence and return to the real principles of Hawaii: inclusion, unity, aloha and respect for the various cultures that make Hawaii so great.

We need to move forward together, not carve out individual ethnic political entities with special rights and privileges.

The United States was founded on the principle of elimination of special rights and privileges, and it has taken us over 200 years to get as far as we have in that process. Let's not turn back the clock now.

Hon. Adv. 8-30-80

STOP PAYMENT

Let Hawaiians have everything they want

I am visiting Hawaii after being away for 27 years. I know that as a soldier at Healea Military Reservation I was never come and at times in danger on Oahu. Now that I'm visiting as a tourist, I can see that things have only gotten worse. I read in The Advertiser that Hawaiians want Schofield Barracks removed to the Mainland. Heck, they want all the military out. They also want autonomy

from the United States. I say, give them exactly what they want.

Remove all armed forces from the islands, lock, stock and barrel. Also remove statehood status and we'll see how graded few their full autonomy as an independent nation. With statehood, of course, we'll stop all federal monies, food stamps, welfare, WIC, AFDC, SSI, SSBI, and all other programs. No grants, no subsidies, no student aid, nothing.

Why not? People here do not wish to be American, do not want to be part of the United States. Let them have their wish and damn the consequences.

Lee Parsons
Newport, Maine

Were Kamehameha's methods legal?

I am not for or against Hawaiian sovereignty. It's not for me to say. But, as I've read many letters to the editor setting forth the U.S. government's illegal takeover of the Hawaiian Kingdom, one vital fact always seems to be missing.

According to my understanding, when Kamehameha decided he would be ruler of the islands, anyone who disagreed with him got pushed over a cliff or suffered some other lethal action. Is this the "legal" Hawaiian kingdom to which people keep referring?

Caroline L. Dunn

Hon. Star Bulletin
9-1-00

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congressional delegation should reconsider

We've all seen the expensive, full-page ads by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs trying to convince the public that the sovereignty activists should be granted the status of Native American.

We have also seen our congressional delegation fall all over themselves in supporting this action. Representatives Mink and Abercrombie and Senator Akaka seem to have forgotten that there are more than a million non-sovereignty types in Hawaii who would like to remain citizens of the U.S.

As one of them, I ask these politicians the following:

Do you represent all the people of Hawaii or just OHA and its supporters? Have you considered how this will affect other citizens?

Every one of OHA's demands will cost Hawaii taxpayers a lot of money. Will we, our children and grandchildren be hit with higher income and property taxes to pay for all this?

If they receive Native American status, will these new minions be subject to their own laws and constitution, and no longer to U.S. law? Will they then be allowed to discriminate against other races?

If all the so-called ceded lands are turned over to this new government, how does that affect our economy? There are airports, schools, hospitals, etc. on much of this property. What would prevent them from gouging the public with higher rents -- like in the heady days of Bishop Estate?

Hon. Star Bulletin
9-1-00

Art Todd
KANEONE

Hon Star Bul. 9-7-00

Non-Hawaiians deserve a hearing, too

This bone of contention between Congress and the Hawaiians has cost non-Hawaiian residents and Americans living outside the Islands who invested in your state plenty.

Anyone, including me, who owns property in and around areas populated by Hawaiians has suffered tremendous property depreciation through no fault of his own.

During their quest to get an apology and make things right for Hawaii's native people, have the members of the state's congressional delegation considered the damage they've done or the damage that will be done to us when and if the Akaka bill is passed?

It's not only time for an apology to the non-native peoples of Hawaii, it's time for some compensation, too. When will we get our hearings?

Hon Star Bul.
9/6/00

Sam Sallome
RICHMOND, VA

Non-Hawaiians weren't consulted on Akaka bill

The main thrust of the proposed legislation by Sen. Daniel Akaka is to reaffirm that the United States has a special responsibility for the welfare of Hawaiians. If passed, they would receive sizable federal funding and have broad autonomy over their own affairs.

By what right does Akaka delegate to non-Hawaiians the status of brother's keeper?

Like all liberal policies, this is all about money and entitlements. We who will foot the bill have not been consulted in the matter.

So who will benefit from this bill?

> The laziest and most useless of Hawaiians leaders, under their expectation to land fat-cat positions in the distribution of the loot.

> The government, which will establish yet another layer of bureaucracy with good pay and benefits.

If I were Hawaiian, I would have considered Senator Akaka to be a disgrace to my people. By proposing this act of plunder disguised as a bill, he is a disgrace to the rest of us.

Titus Benton
HILLO

DISCRIMINATION Hon. Akaka
9-7-00

As a haole, moving here proved to be eye-opener

I did not believe my husband's recruiting employer when he warned us of the prejudice against haoles. We felt we were a well-rounded, culturally sensitive family who had lived in several other countries outside the United States without difficulties. I believe him now, and want to move home.

In the few short months we have lived here, my young blond daughters, 6 and 8 years old, have been subjected to physical and verbal violence at their school. My older child was held to the floor and told that she did not belong on this island and to go home. Our home and cars are a regular target for vandalism. Last night our cars were broken into while we were at home. Our mail is routinely stolen. I seem to be the last to be waited on when awaiting my turn at a store.

I came here feeling aloha and compassion for all ethnicities, but now all I feel is unsafe.

Where are the local children learning to hate haoles? I feel a decision should be made to withdraw all military and federal aid and give Native Hawaiians the independence they seek. American presence is not wanted or appreciated here. There are starving children in Georgia and Mississippi who would appreciate it.

Eric and Cindy Ballard

EDITORIALS

AAA

OHA trustees' plan should be rejected

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees whose terms are to expire in 2002 have proposed standing for election this year because of a constitutional challenge to the election that brought them to office.

The view: The trustees should have resigned after the past election if the election was declared unconstitutional seven months ago, following a court ruling that a constitutionally acceptable election should be scheduled for their seats.

In an attempt to avoid being replaced by gubernatorial appointees, five Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees are proposing to stand for election to complete terms that have been cut short by the fallout from the Rice vs. Cayetano decision. The proposal comes only days after the state Supreme Court set rules for the transition to an OHA board elected under constitutionally acceptable standards. The trustees' effort to remain in office would violate those rules and should be rejected.

The status of eight of the nine OHA trustees was brought into question after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Rice decision that Hawaiian-only elections were racially discriminatory and thus unconstitutional. (One trustee was appointed by Governor Cayetano to fill a vacancy.) The state Supreme Court ruled last week that the eight elected trustees could retain their positions until the Cayetano administration petitioned for their removal.

Four of the trustees, including the single appointee, are up for election this November. Terms

expire in 2002, but a successful challenge by Cayetano would lead to their ouster and allow the governor to appoint replacements for the remainder of their terms.

The trustees' proposal for all nine of them to stand for election this November — five for terms ending in 2002 — would forestall those appointments. The filing deadline for the upcoming election is tomorrow.

State law provides that OHA trustee vacancies occurring more than 60 days before an election may be filled through that election. Vacancies occur-

ring closer to the election date are to be filled by selections made within 60 days by two-thirds of the remaining trustees.

However, in this situation the OHA board would lack the quorum needed



Clayton Hee

to make such a decision.

OHA Chairman Clayton Hee said the trustees' proposal was the "honorable" thing to do. The honorable thing would have been to resign after the Rice vs. Cayetano decision was handed down last February.

The proposal may be described more accurately as an 11th-hour desperation scramble by the trustees facing removal to remain in office through an election with scant time for opposition to materialize. The course prescribed by the state Supreme Court for removal of the trustees

Honolulu, 9-7-80

Cayetano holds cards in impasse with OHA

As we enter the endgame of the latest OHA impasse, the outlines of the outcome are coming into view.

The dynamics of this important drama come from conflict between the Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees and Gov. Ben Cayetano.

■ The legitimacy of eight of the current trustees (the ninth appointed by Cayetano, is untaunted) was undone by the February Rice vs. Cayetano decision, which held that they were chosen by an electorate unconstitutionally restricted to Hawaiians only. The trustees, regardless of when their terms originally were supposed to end, are quickly coming to understand that the only way they can remove that stain, and thus hope to serve on the OHA board in the future, is to resign from office, by tomorrow, and seek re-election on Nov. 7.

■ From the moment it was handed down, Cayetano has seized on the Rice decision as a means to reform what he has long believed is a "dysfunctional" OHA board.

It's hard to argue with this opinion. The board meetings of OHA, which is supposed to oversee a trust worth more than \$300 million for the benefit of Hawaiian beneficiaries, have often degenerated into rancorous chitchatting for the cable-TV camera.

Cayetano surely has been annoyed that the trustees, after months of painstaking negotiations over owing revenues

In so doing, the trustees face some serious problems. In previous years, re-election for OHA incumbents was usually a breeze. But now they may face non-Hawaiian candidates (one already has tried to run); they have to appeal to a far larger electorate that includes non-Hawaiians; and some of them may have difficulty explaining to voters who don't know them the "dysfunctionality" Cayetano has complained of.

Cayetano can hope the election will produce some new faces and a more able board.

A more immediate problem for trustees, one that may frighten some of them, is the prospect that Cayetano will appoint an interim board of trustees to run OHA from tomorrow, when the current trustees are likely to resign, the newly elected ones take office. One wonders what the interim trustees might behold when they gain access to the 12th-floor sanctuaries of the current trustees — even if it's only for two months. It might be a breath of fresh air.

Cayetano was savagely criticized for proposing in February a "coup d'etat" to permanently replace duly elected trustees with his own appointees. But now the remedy is less extreme. The current trustees face a couple of months of replacement by an interim board, and they must risk the hazards of re-election.

In these circumstances, we think Cayetano should stay

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EDITORIAL

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OHA trustees quitting to fight another day

As we predicted, the trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs have decided to resign. It's the first sign of unanimity on the part of this board in recent memory.

In announcing their decision to step down, the trustees gave themselves a large measure of credit for "great humility and compassion" and "doing the right thing."

Take that with a grain of salt. As we pointed out Thursday, for a variety of reasons, they're doing what they have to do to hold the office of OHA trustee past the November election. Five of them had to resign or face removal. Three of them had to resign or face the expense and risk of fighting Gov. Ben Cayetano's quo warranto petition.

The exception is Donald Cataluna, appointed by Gov. Ben Cayetano to fill a vacancy. He was not subject to the "Rice" challenge and did not have to resign. He appears to have done so as a gesture of solidarity with the other trustees.

The spotlight now turns to Gov. Ben Cayetano, who has said he intends to appoint an interim board to serve until the newly elected trustees report for duty in November. He has said he may or may not appoint some of the departing

Cayetano. If he appoints a whole new slate, he'll be accused of staging a "coup d'état" — unless, perhaps, his appointees have sufficient stature and respect.

As we've said, the current bunch have been singularly contentious and unproductive — "dysfunctional," in Cayetano's view. But they argue there's a need for them to stay on until the November election — for essential chores like completing the biennial budget and going to Washington to lobby for the Akaka Native Hawaiian Recognition Bill.

Take that with another grain of salt — especially the assertion that flying the lot of them to Washington in grand style is really going to help OHA beneficiaries or Hawaiians in general.

Rather like the former Bishop Estate trustees, the OHA trustees have begun to confuse their interest in remaining in office with the best interests of the trust they represent.

Under U.S. District Judge Helen Gillmor's earlier preliminary injunction, the office is now open to any candidate, non-Hawaiian and Hawaiian alike. The coming years are sure to be fraught with challenges and change for the

AKAKA BILL

Legislation a disgrace to Hawaiians, others

I was dismayed to learn of the proposed bill to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee public hearings on Hawaii Aug. 28 to Sept. 1.

The bill is the brainchild of U.S. Sen. Dan Akaka. The thrust of the document is to reaffirm that the

United States has a special responsibility for the welfare of Native Americans including the Hawaiians. Such groups receive sizable federal funding and have broad autonomy over their own affairs.

My question to Akaka: By what right do you delegate the non-Hawaiians to the status of brother's keeper? Like all liberal policies this is all about benefits and entitlements. We who will foot the bill have not been consulted in the matter. The Hawaiians are entitled to the stolen lands (for clarification, I should use the same euphemism you are using and call it ceded lands), not to handouts from the rest of us.

Who will benefit from this bill? The laziest and most useless of the Hawaiian leaders under the expectation to land a fat cat position in the distribution of the loot.

Little wonder that honest Hawaiians are demanding independence. The very term implies independence from someone. If that someone is a corrupt, oppressive entity whose only function is to "rob Peter to pay Paul," then "Ich kein ein Hawaiian."

If I were a Hawaiian, I would've

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

EDITORIALS

Resignations of OHA trustees too late

The issue: All nine trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs have resigned.

Our view: The trustees should have resigned after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Rice vs. Cayetano.

THE resignations of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees should have come months earlier, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the Hawaiian-only voting restriction by OHA elections. The resignations, though belated and made only to forestall removal from office, are still welcome.

The voters of Hawaii, without racial restriction, will choose the new OHA board in the November elections. Governor Cayetano will appoint replacements to serve in the interim.

Unfortunately, the period since the Supreme Court's decision in Rice vs. Cayetano has been marked by demagogic posturing by the trustees, unfairly impugning the motives of the governor. This has poisoned the atmosphere and strained relations between Hawaiians and

the correct view, we believe that the Rice decision invalidated the OHA trustee elections and they had to be removed. They should have resigned immediately but chose to resist.

They succeeded in dragging the process out for months, but when the state Supreme Court finally indicated that the administration could petition the court for the trustees' removal, they decided to resign instead.

OHA Chairman Clayton Hee said it was the right thing to do. It was really the expedient thing to do. The trustees — now former trustees — continued to abuse the governor and ascribe unworthy motives to him. In fact, he is simply doing his duty to uphold the law. The authority to appoint interim trustees to fill vacancies is not something he invented. It is an obvious necessity.

Even before the Rice case was decided, Cayetano was forced to make appointments to the board because the trustees couldn't agree among themselves on the appointments.

The charge has been made that the governor is making a power play to take over the OHA board so he can dictate a settle-

whose only reason is to "go refer to pay Paul," then "Ich bein ein Hawaiian."

If I were a Hawaiian, I would've considered the senator a disgrace to my people. By proposing this act of plunder disguised as a bill, he is a disgrace to the rest of us.

Titus Bontea

Hilo

governor. This has poisoned the atmosphere and strained relations between Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians.

The trustees have conveniently forgotten that it was the Cayetano administration that defended the Hawaiians-only voting restriction against the suit brought by Harold "Freddy" Rice. The Supreme Court ruled in Rice's favor.

That decision, whatever its merits, cannot be blamed on the governor. However, as the chief executive of the state of Hawaii, Cayetano must uphold the law and the Constitution — and the U.S. Supreme Court is the final arbiter of the meaning of the law. It was the governor's view

that the governor is making a power play to take over the OHA board so he can dictate a settlement to the ceded lands dispute between the state and OHA. This has been denied and is improbable on its face, if only because of the brief time remaining before the elections.

Clearly appointment of the trustees by the governor is undesirable because the board should be elected. But appointment is necessary under these unusual circumstances.

The appointed trustees should defer all major decisions until the newly elected trustees can take office. And the abuse of the governor for doing his duty should cease.

Star Bulletin Sept 16, 2000



VOLCANIC ASH

By David Shapiro

Trask sisters' sound & fury signify zip

THERE seems to be a touch of sibling rivalry between Hawaiian activist sisters Haunani-Kay and Milliani Trask since Milliani got media attention for calling Sen. Daniel Inouye a "one-armed bandit" — in reference to the limb Inouye lost in an act of wartime heroism that earned him the Medal of Honor.

Gov. Ben Cayetano cited that and other racist slurs this week in declining to appoint Milliani to the board of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Haunani-Kay turned on the

public vulgarity demeans them and the movement they claim to represent. It suggests an intellectual vacuum between the ears of women who pride themselves on their education.

I'm not particularly offended by the "F" word. I've seen it before as, I'm sure, have the governor and the president of the Philippines. The children present at Haunani-Kay's rally probably already knew the word, too, but seeing it used by a woman old enough to be their grandmother certainly diminished their chances of future public civility.

You would think the former director of Hawaiian studies at our state university could have come up with a Hawaiian word to describe her feelings about the governor. She could have at least put a kahako mark over the "n" to make it look more Hawaiian.

The Trasks have long been on the edge of the Hawaiian movement, trying to elbow their way into wherever they think the power — and money — are going to be. Their chief weapon has always been noise.

Think about this historical comparison: The great George

AT this turning point in Hawaiian history, we can't allow those who make the most noise to keep drowning out quieter Hawaiian voices who have the most to say. Honorable public officials such as Inouye and Cayetano want to be friends to Hawaiians. Everybody loses if they're turned away as "anti-Hawaiian" in a barrage of silly name-calling.

Haunani-Kay would tell me right about now that there's an airplane leaving within the hour for back to where I came from. That's the line she used once on some poor fellow at the University of Hawaii who got on her cross side.

If the Trasks could only transform their talent for the crude insult to eloquent discourse that inspires followers to great accomplishment

in declining to appoint Millett to the board of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Hauheani Key jumped on the opportunity to show that the class in the Trask family doesn't end with Millett. She defended sis by parading outside of the govern-

ment since
anyway later

esting or important to say. Now

they resort to obscenity to get the attention they crave.

getting so much attention — not for the power of their ideas, but for their big mouths and on-

has always been noise.

Think about this historical comparison: The great George Helm gave his life in the cause of Hawaiian rights. Eumpy Kanohete went to jail for his beliefs. The Trasks call people schoolyard names and flash children with nasty words. Their contribution kind of comes up short, no?

At one time, you had to give them credit for keeping the debate interesting. But it's been a long time since either has been in the news with anything interesting or important to say. Now they resort to obscenity to get the attention they crave.

crude insult to eloquent discourse that inspires followers to great accomplishments, maybe then they could truly become the Hawaiian leaders they fancy themselves.

David Shapiro is managing editor of the Star-Bulletin. He can be reached by phone at 525-8681, fax at 523-7863 or e-mail at david@aloha.net. Volcanic Ash rums every Saturday.

OHIO PROTEST

Number of protesters may mean little support



ONA PROTEST

Honolulu
9-18-07

**Number of protesters
may mean little support**

It is not always wise to challenge organizations that buy their ink by the barrel (for print) or their tape by the truckload (for TV or radio), but I must believe the Sept. 11 protest by dozens of people at Washington Place is an example of media creating more of an issue than it deserves.

To have about 80 people respond to a statewide, highly public call (a message the media helped deliver) for a mass demonstration or protest says to me that the support for the cause is not there, particularly since the number of protesters included small children. Yet I didn't see this angle appropriately covered.

Could it mean that many more of Hawai'i's people agree with the governor's removal of the trustees? Did you ask?

Sandra Puanani Burgess

**Free speech allowed
for profane sign**

Had Maunani-Kay Trask lived back in the days of ancient Hawai'i, I wonder what the consequences might have been had she held up a sign that stated, "(Expletive) King Kamehameha"?

Robert Payne

Some protest Trask's obscene language

Some Hawaiian leaders say the language was inappropriate and detracts from the real issue

"Ben" and joined 150 others protesting in front of Washington Place on Monday afternoon.

"It was an obscene word to describe an obscene man, namely the governor, who has committed an obscene act," she said.

The word isn't as obscene as the action he took by removing the trustees, including her sister Milliani, and appointing his buddies in their place, she said, but it's one everyone recognizes as an obscenity.

She said her reason for protesting wasn't only because her sister was involved.

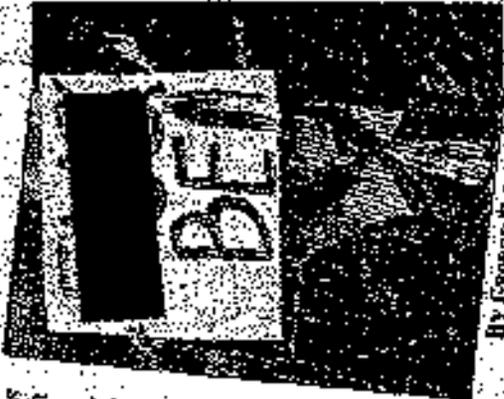
Cayetano criticized the Trasks and Vicky Holt Takamino for organizing the protest outside the

PLEASE SEE TRASK, A-11

By TENEVA SHAPIRO
Special to the Star

Many Hawaiian leaders have criticized Maunani-Kay Trask's use of an obscenity in a protest against Gov. Ben Cayetano's appointment of five interim trustees to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Some said they support Trask's sentiment, but not her language. Trask printed "F---" on a piece of posterboard above the name



By GANNON F. LAR, Special to the Star
Sovereignty activist Maunani-Kay Trask holds the X-rated sign.



MAN KAY OBJECTS TO REPEAT IT

3-00
3 collected

Y'S HAWAII
AAA



IT'S HAWAIIAN FOR
BUT DON'T YOU FEEL

9-13-00
Star B

FROM PAGE ONE

TRASK: Leaders support sentiments, criticize obscenity

Protesters for visiting Philippine businessman

He said Monday was the first time that children were exploited in the process, holding signs with profanity. The organizers of the demonstration — Wicky Holt, Catherine and M. Han, and Hawaiian Kay Trask — should be embarrassed and ashamed that they involved children in such a way.

The governor said their actions reaffirm "my decision to appoint people who will discuss issues critical to native Hawaiians in a rational, meaningful and productive way."

Kanu Charles Kautiwahi Maxwell said that as a reverend, he doesn't think that kind of language is becoming to anyone, particularly someone of Trask's caliber, but he understands her frustration with Cayetano's actions.

"The governor brings out the worst in people," he said. "That's what he's looking for. That's what he's getting."

Maxwell said she supports Trask's sentiment. "We as Hawaiians are mistreated, and you cannot blame the Hawaiian people. They are being attacked from every angle," he said.

OHA Chairman Clayton Hee, one of the trustees reappointed to the board, said the interim trustees Cayetano appointed will raise the level of discussion and dialogue, but he still supported the Hawaiian community's protests.

"We live in a country that was founded on protest," he said.

It was an obscene word to describe an obscure man, namely the governor, who has committed an obscene act.

Hawaiian Kay Trask
HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY ACTIVIST

AAA

iversity of Hawaii, behavior like that is unacceptable. And for someone who is at least 50 years old, it's a great disappointment, insofar as the message she is sending to younger people."

However, Trask said she was aware of the presence of children at the protest and was using the sign as a form of communication.

"Hawaiian children are going to suffer from the actions of Gov. Cayetano. And that is obscene," she said.

Kekuni Blaisdell, of Kanaka Maoli Tribunal Komiha, said the OHA protest and Trask's sign weren't worth commenting on because they detract from the major issue, namely U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye's efforts to push the amended Akaka bill through the Senate, despite "vigorous and overwhelming" protests against it from the Kanaka Maoli.

"That's the one that keeps the colonial establishment in power and subjugates us as second-class citizens."

SOVEREIGNTY

*Hon AAU
9-14-00*

**Secession advocates
don't speak for everyone**

Regarding Eric Po'ohina's Sept. 10 letter, "Hawaiians are at war with the U.S. and that's the reality." Really? I hope he speaks for himself and no one else. It seems to me that this "war" is one-sided: all the accusations and recriminations seem to come from Hawaiians like Po'ohina. As far as the "enemy" is concerned, I see the United States government, through the Department of the Interior and Senes Inouye and Akaka, trying to come up with a reasonable solution.

Billions of dollars to settle claims may be reasonable, but secession is not, because those advocating se-

cession certainly do not speak for all the residents of Hawaii. These people also like to talk about the oft-repeated illegal overthrow, yet they conveniently overlook other parts, like the fact that Kamehameha's unification of the islands was also "illegal" in the sense that it was forcible. Remember Nu'uuanu Pali? History moves on and I wish these people would understand that. Or, should we go all the way back to each island being a kingdom unto itself? Where does the historical calendar begin?

If there really was a war going on, "revolutionaries" like Mr. Po'ohina would certainly be imprisoned. Or dead.

Instead, because America does cherish freedom of speech, he is allowed to spew his nonsense.

James Ko

EDITORIALS



Hawaiian bill takes step toward passage

- **The issue:** A bill establishing a process for the formation of a Hawaiian government has cleared a U.S. Senate committee.
- **Our view:** The bill provides a reasonable response to the Rice vs. Cayetano decision and its implications for Hawaiian programs.

THE campaign to win federal recognition of Hawaiians as an indigenous people entitled to self-government has taken an important step with the approval of legislation by the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Committee passage was unanimous, probably a result of the influence of Senator Inoué, a past chairman and longtime member of the committee. Although two Republican committee members, Pete Domenici of New Mexico and Frank Murkowski of Alaska, expressed reservations, they voted to send the measure on to the Senate floor.

However, with time growing short in this session, it is far from certain that the bill will become law. Because there is concern that the next administration may be less sympathetic to the Hawaiian cause, advocates are trying to expedite action.

Senator Akaka, the lone member of Congress of Hawaiian blood, is the chief sponsor of the bill, which would establish a process for the formation of a Hawaiian government that would have a relationship to the United States government comparable to that of Indian nations.

The question has acquired importance not only because the self-determination is winding down but also because the Rice vs. Cayetano decision has caused concern that US programs benefiting Hawaiians may be in jeopardy.

The Washington hearing was the result of the death of the student

ed Governor Cayetano's appointments of interim trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Although vastly outnumbered by a parade of witnesses speaking in favor of the Akaka bill, the protesters made a lot of noise and attracted news coverage out of proportion to their importance. Their contention that Hawaiians should focus on attaining full sovereignty and that the Akaka bill would conflict with that goal was neither realistic nor informed.

The reaction to the governor's OHA appointees received a new



Daniel Akaka

low in political discourse here, with demonstrators at Washington Place, once a University of Hawaii professor who disgraced herself carrying signs bearing obscenities denouncing Cayetano. Irresponsible and ignorant comments by several of the former trustees who were not appointed to interim terms by the governor fully justified his decision to select other persons.

The protesters refuse to recognize the fact that the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, like it or not, are the law of the land. In the Rice decision, the court ruled that the former trustees were elected through an unconstitutional process.

Cayetano sought the removal of the trustees from office because it is his duty to uphold the law. For that he was showered with abuse. Outrageous claims were made that he was violating his oath to faithfully execute the laws.

But the criticism discredited

Hon. Adv. 9-20-00

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Not that much better under monarchy system

Sovereignty activist Vicky Holt Takamine writes, "Gov. Cayetano continues to violate our constitutional rights" (Advertiser, Sept. 17). She forgets from where those rights emanate. Under the Hawaiian monarchy, her rights could've been taken away by the whim of a king.

In 1864, King Kamehameha V had a disagreement with the constitutional convention delegates on qualifications for voting. He thought universal suffrage was a bad idea.

The king said, "This (voting) is not a right belonging to the people." He continued, "In all other monarchical countries, suffrage is limited, and it is thought that the

possession of property is proof of industry and thrift; therefore, in those enlightened countries it is said that the class who possess property are the proper persons to advise their representatives in regard to the necessities of the government, and the poor, lazy and ignorant are debarred from this privilege."

When he was unable to prevail, he declared the existing constitution to be abrogated and said, "I will give you a constitution."

Which of the two systems better protects Vicky's rights? Perhaps she wants it both ways.

Hon. Advertiser

9-21-00

HAWAIIANS

**Sovereignty movement
too exclusionary**

As a person of Hawaiian blood, I am satisfied with the status quo. I am against independence and the Alaka'i legislation. Those who dislike the U.S. government should live under the British flag or under the Russian flag, since both had a foothold in Hawaii before the U.S. government took over.

My family is a melting pot. I disagree with the Hawaiian movement because it does not involve non-Hawaiians born in the Hawaiian Islands. Hawaiians born outside of the Islands are not children of Hawaii even if their parents were born in the Islands.

Penny Olopa

Honolulu