

P. 05

Kumai Harris & Mahealani Martin

November 22, 1999

To Dept. of Justice /Dept. of the Interior
Testimony for hearing 12/10/12/11/1999

We speak today, first as mothers, second as women concerned for our communities health and well being, and finally as a Native Hawaiian. As a concerned member of this community I am concerned for our Hawaiian community.

Native Hawaiians suffered near fatal, physical, psychological, spiritual and cultural devastation since 1778. That devastation continues today, and if left unchecked will result in the extinction of the Hawaiian race along with our cultural and spiritual traditions.

Hawaiians have been victims of racist policies throughout our lives, I am disgusted with the continued violation of our rights and the perpetuation of a system that allows our children and family to suffer.

It is time we stopped worshiping the god of economic development and returned to our traditional Ohana style values, clean air, food, water, health and simplicity.

Contrary to popular lore we are not simple minded primitives. We have a long history of being a very sophisticated society, robust in health and quite capable of self determination. We are organized and prepared to implement our plan for independence.