



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 14, 2000

Honorable John Berry  
Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW Mailstop-7229  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorable Mark Van Norman  
Director, Office of Tribal Justice  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

**SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF RECONCILIATION TESTIMONY**

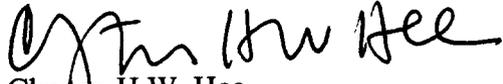
Dear Assistant Secretary Berry and Director Van Norman:

During the recently completed Reconciliation Hearings you conducted in Hawai'i, the community was advised that written submissions would be accepted if post-marked by January 7, 2000. That date was extended to January 14, 2000. Enclosed is the testimony approved by the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at its January 14, 2000 meeting by a vote of seven to one.

In summary, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs testimony concludes that the December 1999 Reconciliation hearings made an important first step in beginning the reconciliation process. In large measure, that first step identified the issues and explored the wide-range of possible solutions to the past century of Federal neglect of its obligations to the Hawaiian people. However a century of neglect cannot be overcome through a week of hearings despite your Herculean efforts. For this reason, the enclosed testimony urges the Federal Executive Branch, in cooperation with the Legislative Branch, to facilitate a continuation of the reconciliation process through the creation of an office of Native Hawaiian Affairs, to implement the federal trust obligations, to commence a process for reparations, and to consult with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in matters affecting the Hawaiian community. Most importantly, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges the President and federal agencies to take all necessary steps to ensure that Native Hawaiians have an equivalent legal and political status as held by other Native Americans.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is prepared to assist you and to consult with you in the implementation of these recommendations. On behalf of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Native Hawaiian community, I thank you for your attention to Native Hawaiian issues and look forward to actions on the recommendations in this testimony.

Sincerely,



Clayton H.W. Hee  
Chairman