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November 21, 1999

TO: JOHN BERRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

FROM: REYNOLDS KAMAKAWIWOOLE RESIDENT, AHAPUA`A - HAMAKUA  
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SUBJECT: **RECONCILIATION PROCESS**

Aloha. May I welcome you to our land as a guest, in your quest to reconcile the changes that occurred to the Native Hawaiians with the overthrow of 1893. I am here today to represent my `ohana (family), the Kamakawiwooles, the descendents of *Charles Moses Kamakawiwoole*, who was one of the first Hawaiian ministers of a Christian faith here in Hawai'i.

The following written testimony is *only an outline* to which I will add to, when giving my oral testimony. Traditionally, Hawaiians communicate orally. So, "e kala mai" (excuse me) as I practice the ways of my ancestors.

A strong **Spiritual Belief** was first among my ancestors and we, as Hawaiians, have continued to live this path. That being priority, all of history thereafter, sustained that element --**Aloha**. Today, we love more and more people and show it by our "Aloha". With Aloha comes Forgiveness. So, at this time, I say to you, we forgive you for what has happen, and forgive us for how we feel about the whole displacement of Hawaiians by the U.S. government.

Our reconciliation process cannot be, and should not be completed without you knowing who the Hawaiians really are. As the Indigenous people of these islands, we have our own culture and values, different from any other in the world.

In brief, as part of the reconciliation process, I believe that **Federal taxes paid in the past, be reimbursed to Native Hawaiians immediately (including interests and all other assessed fees)**. These monies have been collected illegally and until we as Native Hawaiians chose our relationship with the United States, such monies should be refunded.

All other remedies should follow with continuing dialogue that pertains to our way of life and governmental relationships. I endorse the objectives to implement efforts of reconciliation initiated by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka- towards the spiritual healing process. All efforts should have proper protocol by Native Hawaiians which includes pule(prayer) and chants. We need more time other than what is presently given to us. We stand united as a people to further discuss(kukakuka) this matter and ho`oponopono (make it right for all).

Mahalo for allowing me this time as I continue to serve my `ohana in this process.