



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Center for Hawaiian Studies

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Assistant Secretary John Berry  
c/o Document Management Unit  
The Department of the Interior  
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Washington, D.C. 20240  
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Aloha kua e Mr. Berry,

The Native Hawaiian nation has suffered terrible deprivations as a result of 106 years of American colonialism, and it will take another 106 years of reconciliation before those wrongs are righted. While I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Reconciliation Process, I must inform you that there has been very little press here in Hawai'i on the hearings, and requisite deadlines; hence you have before you my request to be considered for panel dialogue and roundtable discussions on all of the issues, with my testimonies to follow later this week.

I am the Director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and as such have extensive testimony to make on Native Hawaiian Health and Education, especially at the post secondary level. I have written extensively on Hawaiian land issues [please see attached CV], Hawaiian culture and economic development, the development of the Hawaiian Sovereignty movement, and the importance of the reconciliation process in defining our future political relationship as Native Hawaiians with the American government.

I am the first in my family to graduate from high school since the 1893 American overthrow of the Hawaiian government, and by the time I was thirteen years old my family had moved eleven times due to poverty and lack of access to land and housing. I will speak to you first hand about evictions for non-payment of rent, homelessness among the Hawaiian people, lack of affordable housing, and

the alcohol and drug abuse stemming from the theft of our lands and resulting in our great poverty as a people.

As a descendant of the Pi'ilani lineages of Maui and the 'Umi-a-liloa lineages of Hawai'i, and as the first Native Hawaiian historian of Hawai'i in 100 years, I will speak to you of the historical record of wrongs done to my people, the death of our people from foreign disease and starvation, the banning of our ancestral language, the abuse of Native rights and the destruction of our beloved lands of Hawai'i nei with bombs and toxic waste, as well as Native Hawaiian hopes and aspirations for a reconciliation of these wrongs.

I look forward to seeing you on December 4, 1999 at 'Iolani Palace and to participating in your panel discussions on December 10 and 11, 1999.

Sincerely



Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Hawaiian Studies