

Sonny Kaniho
P.O. Box 1566
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
Phone: (808) 885-7490

RECONCILIATION TESTIMONY OF

SONNY KANIHO

I have been a spokesperson for the Aged Hawaiians of the Hawaiian Home Lands Waimea Pastoral waiting list since 1970.

The Aged Hawaiians who were on the Hawaiian Home Land 1952 Pastoral Waiting Lists prior to their passing away, said that the intent of the Hawaiian Home Commission Act is to diminish the Native Hawaiian race as their blood diminishes.

The 1920 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act divided Hawaiians into those that were 50% or more Hawaiian ancestry, and those who were not, were considered "non-native". This act alone caused strife and division among our families. We lost our self-esteem and pride when our basic family unit was torn apart. Then, many of those who "qualified" as Hawaiians (50% or more blood quantum) could not get land and died on the waiting list.

The way the system works now is that preference is given to those who are 100% Hawaiian (husband and wife), then to those whose children are 50% or more. They are priority 2.

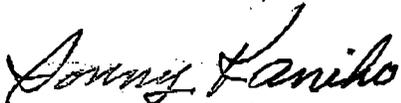
Why did Congress pick this formula?

In 1932, the Hawaiian Homes Commission ruled that if lessees children did not satisfy the 50% blood quantum, they were removed from the lease. They are still Hawaiian. However, this Act clearly states that if you are not 50% Hawaiian, you are non-native.

This has to change!

I support the position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Please refer to their Reconciliation Hearings testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,


Sonny Kaniho