



ALU LIKE, Inc.

E alu like mai kākou, e nā 'ōiwi o Hawai'i

Administrative Offices

Day 2

TESTIMONY

of

Tara Lulani McKenzie, President/CEO
on behalf of ALU LIKE, Inc.
Regarding Reconciliation

Submitted

to the

Federal Department of Interior
Federal Department of Justice
for Reconciliation Proceedings
December 4 - 13, 1999

Mr. John Berry, Assistant Secretary
Document Management Unit
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW Mailstop-7229
Washington, D.C. 20240
Facsimile No.: (202) 219-1790

Aloha Mr. Berry,

My name is Tara Lulani McKenzie, President and Chief Executive Officer of ALU LIKE, Inc., the largest statewide Native Hawaiian non-profit organization providing services and programs to Native Hawaiians. I'm delighted to present testimony on this very important subject of reconciliation. ALU LIKE whose mission is, "to kōkua Native Hawaiians who are committed to achieving their potential for themselves, their families, and communities", operates a variety of programs such as child care assistance, parent education, literacy, substance abuse prevention and abatement, vocational training, employment and training, entrepreneurship training and assistance, elderly services, technology training, etc. This year the investment of over \$14 million in designated grants will provide services to more than 9,000 Native Hawaiians. Over the past 24 years, we have assisted a multitude of Native Hawaiians toward self-sufficiency and reaching their full potential. We proudly celebrate in their successes and the accomplishments of our joint efforts. However, there is still much more work to be done; this matter of reconciliation is a very sensitive and critical issue that needs to be addressed. Working together with the federal government is an important step toward resolution of this process.

ALU LIKE wholly agrees and supports the three objectives regarding reconciliation of the Honorable Senator Daniel K. Akaka:

1. Establishing permanency to a continuing dialogue on reconciliation between the federal government and Native Hawaiians;
2. establishing a framework for addressing longstanding issues; and

3. focusing on actions that will better the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians.

ALU LIKE is anxious for the opportunity to be actively involved in discussions regarding these objectives.

1. Establishing permanency to a continuing dialogue on reconciliation between the federal government and Native Hawaiians:

ALU LIKE, along with other Native Hawaiian organizations, work very closely with each other and with the communities and understand many of the issues facing Native Hawaiians today. We strongly feel that the theme of collaboration among all organizations with a vested interest in Native Hawaiians is absolutely necessary to create a positive environment in accomplishing all objectives. When trying to establish permanency to a continuing dialogue on reconciliation between the federal government and Native Hawaiians, and in trying to establish a framework for addressing longstanding issues, we encourage openness, inclusiveness, and the involvement of many groups and organization with diverse ideas.

2. Establishing a framework for addressing longstanding issues: and

ALU LIKE's twenty-four (24) year history of service to Native Hawaiians provides us significant experience that is beneficial to these discussions. Since 1975, the agency has worked steadily and successfully to address the needs of our community in a productive, non-partisan way. From our humble beginnings we have evolved into a statewide multi-service system of projects. As an agency committed to meaningful progress, and funded largely by public and private support, we strive to give back to the community a positive return on its investment, by bringing over \$150,000,000 into Hawai'i's economy since our inception and generating additional multi-million dollar net gains that impacts everyone.

3. Focusing on actions that will better the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians.

We have several specific actions to suggest that will better the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians. ALU LIKE's first project was to conduct a comprehensive Native Hawaiian needs assessment and over the years, ALU LIKE has since authored many more needs assessments on various topics. In conducting these assessments, ALU LIKE consistently involves Native Hawaiian communities, partner agencies, and our experienced staff for direction and input. The findings of these studies has enabled the federal government to provide the necessary resources through ALU LIKE, as well as many other Native Hawaiian organizations. The current ALU LIKE Strategic Plan was developed in such a manner and includes several objectives which are highlighted in the following.

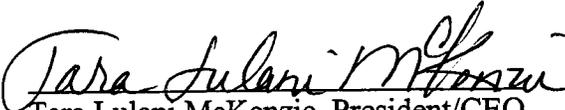
- Expansion of our child care assistance program to operate statewide, to enable more parents to gain job training and employment.
- Installation of home-based technology training programs in place, to train Native Hawaiians in computer literacy and computer-based communications, helping to ensure that they do not remain technologically disenfranchised.

- Increase of a set-aside Individual Development Accounts program for Native Hawaiian families to develop their own short and long-range financial and economic success plans and to save for a first home, college tuition or the start of a small business.
- Expansion of programs statewide that provide culturally appropriate services to Native Hawaiian youths who drop out of school or become involved with drugs.
- Extension of our recidivism prevention program for youth and adult offenders to operate statewide.
- Creation of a leadership training center offering training ranging from basic motivation/life skills to advanced corporate leadership.
- Establishment of an entrepreneurship training and assistance program to increase self-employment and business opportunities in Native Hawaiian communities statewide.
- Establishment of corporate for-profit initiatives to help support non-profit programs.
- Creation of community economic development initiatives.

In conclusion, ALU LIKE would be honored to work with Congressional staff to justify continued funding support and to provide more detailed input into the design of this reconciliation process and its associated programs. We would like to extend our gratitude to our Congressional Delegation for their supportive efforts in making it possible for us to assist our Native Hawaiian individuals, families, and communities. We also seek to commend and fully support the continuation of services provided by other Native Hawaiian service organizations, our partners, for the provision of other needs, such as Hawaiian health, Hawaiian language immersion, etc.

ALU LIKE affirms our commitment to this initiative and looks forward to the beneficial outcomes for Native Hawaiians. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comment.

E alu like mai kākou, e nā `ōwi o Hawai`i. (Let us work together, natives of Hawai`i.)


Tara Lulani McKenzie, President/CEO