

12/10/99

Jodi K. Nahinu
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Re: Testimony on Reconciliation for the Hawaiian People

Aloha to all na poe Hawai'i and greetings to the United States of America representatives. My name is Jodi Kawehionalani Nahinu and I am Hawaiian of the aboriginal peoples who inhabited these islands. I am giving this testimony on behalf of my family and myself.

I have never had so hard of a time writing a testimony as I have had writing this one. I guess it's the frustration of repeating the same things and having nothing done about it here in the State of Hawai'i. And now, here you are, perhaps following the same footsteps as the State of Hawai'i. Are we knocking our heads against a stonewall only to find the wall is still standing there without a dent or scratch?

The United States made a law in 1993 that we refer to as the Apology Law 103-150. It's a very significant piece of the puzzle to our people in our quest for sovereignty and self-determination. This Public Law 103-150 tells the history of the Hawaiian peoples' plight and the reason why you are here.

There was a wrong done by the United States to the Hawaiian people and now it's time to correct it. It sounds so easy but the task is great on your part not ours. You see, the United States must do the sacrificing. It must give back what it has taken wrongfully as the law states. The United States must

now surrender and laydown its arms to the people it nearly exterminated.

The tide has turned and so has the tables of negotiations. The United States must now negotiate with the Hawaiian people and settle up its outstanding debts it owes for the usage of the Hawaiian peoples' lands, waters, and all their natural resources for over the past 106 years.

We, the Hawaiian people have made the greatest sacrifices of our language, culture, government, lands, waters, natural resources, health, and livelihood so that the United States could spread their language, culture, government, and livelihood here in our islands.

Now it is time for reconciliation on your part not ours. We surrendered everything and now it's time for you to surrender everything back that was taken wrongfully. It's not for the Hawaiian people to tell you what we want but for the United States to ask us what it wants.

We, the Hawaiian people are aware of what belongs to us and we know the lands, waters and natural resources the United States are occupying and using. So today, your question to the Hawaiian people should be, "Can the United States continue to use and occupy?" This is reconciliation.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jodi Kawehionalani Nahinu

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