

To: John Berry, Assistant Interior Secretary
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From: Clark Richardson, MD
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Re: Reconciliation talks between Native Hawaiians and the U.S. Government

Mr. Berry, recommended to you as reconciliation of the Native Hawaiian in the sovereignty problem with the State of Hawaii and the Federal Government is ...

"A lump sum reparations monetary settlement with each nuclear family involved".

My qualifications for saying this? I am an 83 year old retired physician with a Master of Public Health degree in health administration. Formerly Executive Director of Childrens Health Services for the State Health Department of Hawaii, health officer of the largest district in the now so-called Federated States of Micronesia, health officer of American Samoa, a U.S. super-grade chief health advisor for the U.S. Department of State in Vietnam and later, before retirement, chief health advisor for the U.S. Peace Corps to six South Pacific land countries.

I have worked at all level of government, Mr. Berry, city, county, state, territorial, federal and international ... about 36 years in all. I have worked in many places where the new jurisdiction had separated from the old mother country as Hawaii, American and Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam with all the growing pains of the new kid on the block.

Even as a brain doctor soon after Pearl Harbor when Japanese U.S. citizens were uprooted from their homes and farms as in California and sent to inland camps, mine to Arkansas, so I have a feel for the Native Hawaiian dilemma.

The sovereignty issue, the questions of land distribution have hung on for years, never resolved in OHA. And will not be by that mechanism. The exact definition of sovereignty has never been agreed on and the internal disruptions of OHA by a few aggressive ones, assures the controversy will not be solved as demands go up and up.

The rapid incisive answer that works so well is Money. Reparations!

It worked for the Japanese U.S. citizens uprooted in World War II. It has worked for South Pacific countries. We don't know about Vietnam yet. When I was there, 1970-74, the Department of State with the South Vietnam Government was working on sectioning and distribution of centuries old wealthy landlords' holdings of thousands of hectares by aerial photogrammetry, reduction to farm plots, with computer assisted distribution. But maybe the communists have thrown that out?

Reparations should go to nuclear families - parents and children - with whatever blood quantum is agreed on. For those natives who have already received Hawaiian lands, a reduction of the reparation by the taxed value. Due to the land controversy - over almost 100 years now, the reparation should be high enough to compensate for that. My rough estimate is 50,000 to 90,000 dollars per Hawaiian family.

It should be lump sum, payments completed within one year after approval by Congress. CY 2000 or 2001. Any unresolved special exceptions to be determined by the Court.

It is recommended there be a liason sub-office in Interior, maybe the Office of Territories, but discontinue any special native Hawaiian office in the the State of Hawaii.

Some may argue you should not give such large sums to Hawaiians, they will spend it overnight, but that is not in the jurisdiction of either Interior or Hawaii State. A one time lump sum, soonest.

Clark Richardson