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Office of the Assistant
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Attention: Mr. Ed Thompson

KSK

Gentlemen:

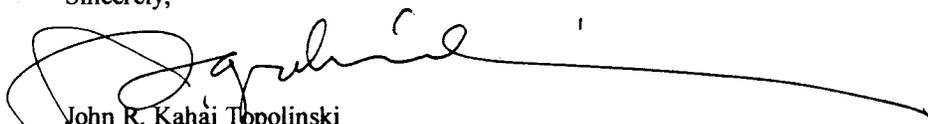
Hawaiian Reparations – A Testimony

On August 12, 1898, the small, independent Kingdom of Hawaii was no more. Eclipsed by annexation to the United States of America, Hawaii's hereditary monarchy passed into the shadows of obscurity. How unthinkable that America, for all its codes and ethics enshrining civil and individual rights, should commit such an act, causing 100 years of Hawaiian political genocide. The public record is undisputed: Over 95% of American citizens and President Grover Cleveland opposed annexation. No plebiscite or legal contract was negotiated with native Hawaiians for their acquiescence. The duplicitous nature of American politics, being what it represented, scratched out some justification, complicitus at best, and illegal. Ludicrous statements – a catchall, if you will – went something like this: “If we don't annex Hawaii, Japan or Russia will...,” and perhaps the most insulting of all: “The Hawaiian race is inferior and needs to be shaken from their childlike stupor by Anglo-Saxons...” Beyond this rhetoric, however, lay the simple truth of greed, as European nations sought imperialist ambitions in the Pacific and Far East. Taking its share of the political pie, America negated its treaty of friendship with its ally, Hawaii, risking its honor and breaking international law in the process. This betrayal of Machiavellian proportions was to impact the future of Hawaiian not yet born – a fate sealed with the Spanish-American War in 1898. Annexation took hold, giving nothing, but promising a bright future laden with the spoils of victory akin to democracy – American style. With centuries of political, cultural, social experience, and the natural process of trial and error, westerners were able to master their perceived way of life. However, westerners postulated Hawaiians should achieve the same level of mastery just forty years after Captain James Cook's arrival in 1778, followed by 100 years of Annexation. However, unrealistic, our people took on this surmountable task, and with courage and fortitude, Hawaiians plunged themselves into the business of survival at a cost unimaginable to the human mind or reasoning. Complete success was never a given, but an elusive quest. Never quite measuring up to their haole counterparts in terms of the cultural nuances and the deceptive, flawed, perverse nature of American capitalistic society, Hawaiians again shifted cultural gears into new, uncharted political waters. Much to the delight of their detractors, native Hawaiians became Americans of a sort. Assimilation became the key if they were to be embraced with success and advancement. Many affected the education and cultural mannerisms of the American haole; adorning themselves in western fashions and all the stylish trappings that accompanied it. Young Hawaiian men and women were sent to Europe and America to enhance their learning of the western world in hopes of strengthening the stability of their native government. Then there were those who either suspended their culture altogether, favoring an ever aggressive “pop culture,” while others determined to make some sense of the aftermath stood, clutching on to remnants and pieces of a proud but fractured civilization. Still other Hawaiians held fast to their old, native ways, playing catch-up, dealing with an American lifestyle that seemed to elude them. Yet, in spite of this, those Hawaiians who became successful at the American game of life were perceived by whites as “over dressed up monkees” aspiring the white man and his holy culture ordained by the Christian God for whites only. In many cases Hawaiians became a serious threat and political foe, threatening an all-exclusive culture dominated by those who were white and over confident of their status. In other words, it was fine and very democratic for the masters and their children to play, cavort and frolic sexually with the servants of the plantation. But it was another thing to marry them, elevating them into the world of the master above the social far of God's chosen. Much was overshadowed also by the continual decline of the Hawaiian race from the ravages of disease and death. Members of the patrician class, to which Sanford Ballard Dole and Lorrin Andrews Thurston belonged, hinted that by the year 2000, the Hawaiian race would be but “a pleasant memory.” Debilitating speculation only helped to serve the oligarchies “WASP”

community, and its theories of social Darwinism – “only the strong will survive.” Everyone around us – the exiled alii, princes, princesses, and our cousins in foreign lands, former royalists, the educated and uneducated – has changed, to some degree forever. Annexation is also about human beings unanchored; blinded by a fractured past which Hawaiians needed to believe was salvageable; holding very deep feelings of loyalty, love, hate, and the never ending grudges; and being immobilized by uncertainty, fueled by traitors who hastened the destruction. This scenario continues, at times becoming a parody of a Greek tragedy. Above all, the Hawaiian experience is the tale of a family in crisis – its ancient beliefs, laws, and traditions, confronted with an ignorance from without, not effectively understood – then told by pseudo-political prophets to accept as authentic a mangled, unstable, and recriminatory version of their entire existence. The answer to the ever-elusive riddle of Hawaiian political survival does not only lie in the multitudes of political castes, but in the Hawaiian Royal Family. Everything that Hawaiians considered praiseworthy, noble, and of good report (known as opualii) became the guiding force behind the Royal Family. However, in their pursuit to sway native Hawaiians from their political structure, none was more vociferous than the malcontent members of the oligarchy, with Lorrin Andrews Thurston as their “poster boy,” waiving the standard of a neo-political order, the ambiguity of which produced a democracy so controlling that it obliterated any semblance of Hawaiian Sovereignty. Thus, the flower of Hawaiian government under the Monarchy was never given a fair and unbiased chance to blossom in its fullness. Americas illegal act of political injustice over 100 years ago still stands as a literal masterpiece celebrating the greed and arrogance of man for and in behalf of American democracy. It supports dangerous theories of social-political Darwinism. Consigning world dominion to a select breed of men who felt destined to dispossess of weaker races and “assimilate others and mold the remainder until, in a very true and distorted sense, the American philosophy of manifest destiny would have Americanized Hawaii and Hawaiians beyond recognition. While many Americans and certain present day political groups continue to minimize the depredation of the years of Hawaiian political genocide, consider, then the horrors of the Jewish Holocaust. Lets add to this the almost complete, systematic extermination of the indigenous people from the “American” continent. And lets not forget the 1941 illegal incarceration (fanned by war hysteria), of approximately 70% of Japanese-American families during World War II. Any way you cut it, these illicit deeds carry the seeds of hate as a final solution geared to the debilitation of certain peoples. What a sickening commentary on the human experience and all because it feeds the egotistical, arrogance of select individuals. And we the descendants of this political aftermath are left to deal with a political monster that America created 100 years ago. What a sickening commentary on the American experience we Hawaiians at the close of the 20th century are heirs to America’s sordid legacy. But how wonderful it must be for American leaders whose remarkable touch with jaded reality allows for the use of wealth, power and position to publish without restraint, hesitation or political accuracy their revisionist view point – negating America’s political cultural rape of Hawaii. I have often wondered what possessed the hearts and minds of President William McKinley (who signed the Annexation Bill) and the Cadre of politicians, and men who, pushed and lobbied for Hawaiian Annexation. I am convinced their family’s wealth, political connections and prominence created a euphoria of power hungry addicts allowing these men to grow up without a true sense of honor, conscience, caring or compassion for the rights and political sovereignty of others beyond the confines of the United States.

It is the responsibility of our present government and political leaders to right the wrong of their predecessors! A kingdom was stolen from the face of the earth! A wrong that was willfully committed upon the friendly nation of Hawaii and its citizens. Hawaiians are due reparations. Pay up!

Sincerely,



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