

all 4 → generalize to Reconciliation

DATE: Nov 22, 1999

TO:  
Assistant Secretary M. John Berry,  
c/o Document Management Unit  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 7229  
Washington, D.C. 20240 (Fax: 202-208-3230)

**RE: RECONCILIATION WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

**PARTICIPANT DATA:**

1. Name Keomalani Von Gogh  
 Address 230 Lyman Ave  
Hilo, Hi 96720  
 Daytime telephone (808) 934-7668  
 Fax number 5  
 E-mail address R
  
2. Will you be representing a Native Hawaiian organization  
 \_\_\_\_\_ yes X no

  - a. Please provide the name and mission of your organization:
  
  - b. How large is your organization's membership?
  - c. Please provide your organization's address:

  
3. Which topic(s) would you like to address?  

<b>December 10, 1999</b>	<b>December 11, 1999</b>
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  - Native Hawaiian Housing
  - Reconciliation Process
  - Native Hawaiian Health
  - Political Relationship and Education
  - Native Hawaiian Culture and Economic Development
  - Hawaiian Land and Natural Resources

## **Federal Reconciliation Hearings**

Date: December 10, 1999

Place: Honolulu, Hawai'i

Testimony of: Keomailani Von Gogh  
230 Lyman Ave.  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
808-934-7668

Number of pages: 2.0

Aloha, Mr. Berry and Mr. Van Norman;

I hope that you have come to hear what we have to say with open hearts, and the intent to do what is morally right. I pray that you come here to truly start the process of reconciliation.

Our tradition of Ho'oponopono consists of people coming together to right wrongs or work out problems and continues until all parties have completely resolved their differences and have evolved in the process.

The process set up by the Federal government feels insincere. How can any of us speak of how the past 107 years has affected each one of us, our ohana's and our people, in 3 minutes?

You give us a sheet to fill out and tell us, to pick a topic to speak on and expect us to pidgin hole, categorize and neatly package our emotions and mana'o for you. This is a western concept alien to the Hawaiian people and our process of righting wrongs.

The issues I wish to address but cannot expand on in this amount of time are as follows:

1. The elimination of our Wardship Status: We are a creative, resourceful, intelligent and giving people capable of taking care of ourselves and making our own decisions.
2. The return the control of our Ceded Land, the Hawaiian Home Lands, and Federal held lands, and our Ali'i Trusts: On Hawai'i island alone there still thousands of people on the Hawaiian Homes waiting list but the Hawaiian Home Lands are instead leased to Commercial users, military complexes, industrial areas, airports and harbors. Since 1920, less than 10,000 Hawaiians have been placed or allotted lands from the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.
3. The elimination of "Live-In State Parks" where native tenants are forced to accept State control over their lands and to agree to work for the State in order not to lose their land.

4. Eliminate the Blood Quantum imposed by Congress. This is a racist criterion, designed to divide and eventually eliminate the Native peoples.
5. Eliminate the illegal use and diversion of our water and waterways;
6. Termination of Military presence and occupation of Hawai'i.
7. The immediate halt to the desecration and destruction of the bones of our ancestors and our sacred sites; I pray that in my life time I am given the chance to see a day when we don't have to spend so much energy on making sure a hotel, subdivision or observatory is going to be built on our sacred sites or the bones of our kupuna.

These racist and threatening policies are a direct result of Wardship. This Wardship policy combined with the alienation of the people of the land has generated third world health statistics of the Hawaiian people.

Thus far the United States has managed to 'collectively' oppress the Hawaiian people through policies of Wardship. It is time to acknowledge our 'collective' freedom through self-determination.

I would like to end with a quote by the former U.S. Attorney General, Ramsey Clark: "There are well over 200 million indigenous people on the planet maybe as many as 300 million they live on six continents and on countless numbers of islands; and everywhere they are the most endangered of the human species. Yet the survival of humanity depends on their salvation."

Mahalo