

Sunday — January 9, 2000

Dear Honorable John Berry:

The Department of the Interior must act decisively to support the Hawaiian people. It would be desirable that we receive legal standing like that of Native Americans. Only then will individuals like Freddie Rice (a descendant of the overthrowers) and his ilk not come out of the woodwork. The very lineage of my oppressors took away the vote from my people - that is how the balance of power changed. We can't rebuild until our oppressors lineage have their fingers out of the pie.

The history of America's treatment of native peoples is documented, from the criminal acts committed against the Native Americans to the criminal acts committed against the Native Hawaiians. How can we be denied what is rightfully ours when the facts are in our favor? Being an annexed people, the powers that be can't give power away. That would go against the machismo of the 'Manifest Destiny' mind-set that massacred many thousands of indigenous people in North America in the name of 'progress.'

There is concern that Hawaii will 'secede.' This is an arrogant concern voiced by those who can't stand not being in control. I don't foresee it happening, but ethically I have no problem with it. Everything was stolen from my people and their culture and religion was demonized as the New Testament was shoved down their throats. Ideally, the Hawaiians should get everything! Logistics is the only problem, not our deservedness of what was stolen.

There is an arrogance out there that seems to say, "It's been so long since the overthrow, and besides, so much has been built here that it would be impossible to give it back." That's sick logic. If someone steals a car and it changes hands ten times before I happen to buy it, does that give me the right to keep it? No it doesn't. If a woman is beaten by her husband over a period of several years, does the abuser have the right to say that "she's used to it by now so it's not so bad"? Why should the ILLEGAL occupation of Hawaii be any different?

Logistics would be a problem, so do it financially in the interim of some real change. Everything owned, rented, or produced by non-Hawaiians should be partly owned by Hawaiians: Royalties would serve as reparations and as RENT. Something drastic and along those lines would have to be done to be considered serious. After all it's the Hawaiians land, no one else's. Driving a stolen car long enough does not make it anyone's but the original owners!

Reconciliation - to be sincere - must give Hawaiians everything that was taken from them. That's justice. The apology signed by President Clinton corroborates that the overthrow by the United States was illegal. Therefore the United States has no right or claim to Hawaii. Hawaiians deserve the whole enchilada. I hope that will be in mind when things are discussed - Anything less than everything we deserve is merely a distortion of justice.

Thank you for standing up for us and having the bravery to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

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THE U.S. ILLEGALLY ANNEXED HAWAII — ADMISSION OF GUILT AND CULPABILITY

United States Public Law 103-150

The "Apology Resolution"

Passed by Congress and signed by President William J. Clinton on November 23, 1993

President Clinton signs Public Law 103-150, the "Apology Resolution" to Native Hawaiians, on November 23, 1993, as Vice-President Gore and Hawaii's Congressional delegation look on: Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Patsy Mink, Rep. Neil Abercrombie, and Sen. Daniel Akaka:

"To acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and to offer an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii."

Whereas, prior to the arrival of the first Europeans in 1778, the Native Hawaiian people lived in a highly organized, self-sufficient, subsistent social system based on communal land tenure with a sophisticated language, culture, and religion;

Whereas, from 1826 until 1893, the United States recognized the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii, extended full and complete diplomatic recognition to the Hawaiian Government, and entered into treaties and conventions with the Hawaiian monarchs to govern commerce and navigation...

Whereas, on January 14, 1893... the United States Minister assigned to the sovereign and independent Kingdom of Hawaii conspired with a small group of non-Hawaiian residents of the Kingdom of Hawaii, including citizens of the United States, to overthrow the indigenous and lawful Government of Hawaii;

Whereas, soon thereafter, when informed of the risk of bloodshed with resistance, Queen Liliuokalani issued the following statement yielding her authority to the United States Government rather than to the Provisional Government:

"I Liliuokalani, by the Grace of God and under the Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the Constitutional Government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a Provisional Government of and for this Kingdom.

"That I yield to the superior force of the United States of America whose Minister Plenipotentiary, His Excellency John L. Stevens, has caused United States troops to be landed a Honolulu and declared that he would support the Provisional Government.

"Now to avoid any collision of armed forces, and perhaps the loss of life, I do this under protest and impelled by said force yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representatives and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the Constitutional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands."

- Queen Liliuokalani, Jan 17, 1893

Whereas, without the active support and intervention by the United States diplomatic and military representatives, the insurrection against the Government of Queen Liliuokalani would have failed for lack of popular support and insufficient arms.

Whereas, in a message to Congress on December 18, 1893, President Grover Cleveland reported fully and accurately on the illegal acts of the conspirators, described such acts as an "act of war, committed with the participation of a diplomatic representative of the United States and without authority of Congress", and acknowledged that by such acts the government of a peaceful and friendly people was overthrown... President Cleveland further concluded that a "substantial wrong has thus been done which a due regard for our national character as well as the rights of the injured people requires we should endeavor to repair" and called for the restoration of the Hawaiian monarchy.

Whereas, the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum.

Whereas, the health and well-being of the Native Hawaiian people is intrinsically tied to their deep feelings and attachment to the land;

Whereas, the long-range economic and social changes in Hawaii over the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have been devastating to the population and to the health and well-being of the Hawaiian people;

Whereas, the Native Hawaiian people are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territory, and their cultural identity in accordance with their own spiritual and traditional beliefs, customs, practices, language, and social institutions;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, The Congress:

- apologizes to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the people of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893... and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination;

- expresses its commitment to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, in order to provide a proper foundation for reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people; and

- urges the President of the United States to also acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people.

"...the logical consequences of this resolution would be independence."

- Senator Slade Gorton (R-Washington), US Senate Congressional Record: Wednesday, October 27, 1993, 103rd Cong. 1st Sess.
