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Day 2

# THE HAWAIIAN NEWS

KO HAWAI'I PONO'I - HAWAII'S OWN

*Established in 1873 - Revived in 1997*

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November 22, 1999

Assistant Secretary John Berry  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Fax: (202) 219-1790

Dear Sir:

I have been convinced, by others at this last minute, to submit notice to you of my willingness to be a roundtable participant in the discussions to be held in Hawaii on December 11th regarding a reconciliation process with the United States and our political status. Here is a brief background of my family's history and my political views;

I publish the only independent press focusing on Native Hawaiian issues and follow in the footsteps of my paternal great-grandfather James Auld. His newspaper *Ko Hawaii'i Pono'i* was written in the Hawaiian language for our people who only numbered 49,000 survivors. Publishing the paper was for the purpose of resisting the Reciprocity Treaty with the U.S. which was signed in 1875.

His brother William Auld, was one of four men who carried the Memorial Document and the Hui Aloha Aina petition with over 20,000 signatures to the U. S. Senate in 1897 which led to the defeat of the congressional bill regarding the Annexation Treaty. In the Memorial Document, the authors stated that they were being deprived of their "nationality" as Hawaiian nationals and were asking for the assistance of the U.S. in seeing that they could have a fair and just election on the matter of annexation. They also stated their willingness to acquiesce if the outcome were for annexation, yet to this date their request has gone unanswered.

I personally participated with other descendants in handing over the original documents of their petition to a representative of the U.S. National Archives for safe keeping in January of this year. Instead of merely being a part of our history this document should be carried forward as part of the reconciliation process. Our Hawaiian nationality is still the issue.

According to the *American Dictionary of the English Language* published by Noah Webster in 1828; reconciliation can be defined as a "renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity". U.S. Public Law 103-150 began the reconciliation process and acknowledged among other facts that "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;" which has lead to the upcoming meetings to continue the process.

As the members of Hui Aloha Aina proposed in their Memorial Document to the U.S. Senate, I restate that the U.S. should assist us in having a fair and just election to restore our nationality - before we proceed further with the reconciliation process. Once our declaration of nationality is determined, the proper venues and parties will be able to

begin the process for reconciliation. We should be able to declare our citizenship or nationality as either: 1.) American Citizens; or 2.) Hawaiian Nationals; or 3.) Hawaiian Nationals with Dual - American Citizenship.

I do not belong to any particular Hawaiian sovereignty group, and through my publication I am able to bridge communications with the broader Hawaiian community. I am also a member of the OHA Consensus Building Project - Paepae Hanohano. I believe in restoring our Hawaiian Nationality, but leave it to the will of our people to determine the form of government our nation will uphold.

I was not planning to participate in your upcoming meetings because; 1.) the State Department is not part of the process, 2.) the three-minute time restriction and only one hour for testimonies is offensive, and 3.) the topic of reconciliation is not being given adequate time in your brief two-day agenda.

I submit this letter for the records, and as somewhat of a challenge to you, to see if such views can be included in your roundtable discussions on December 11th.

Mahalo,

*Toni Auld Yardley*  
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Editor - Publisher