Public Meeting regarding whether the Federal Government should reestablish a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community

PUBLIC MEETING

KAUNAKAKAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
39 Ing Place
Kaunakakai, Hawaii

June 28, 2014
1:00 p.m.

Moderator: DAWN CHANG
Recorded and Transcribed by:
Kathryn Plizga, RPR, Hawaii CSR No. 497
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PANELISTS:

RHEA SUH, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior
ESTHER KIA'AINA, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
JUSTIN SMITH, Assistant Section Chief of Law and Policy, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice
JENNIFER ROMERO, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
MS. CHANG: Mahalo to the panel. I did want to make one point clear before we started going into the comments. I think when Colette was up she talked about we are going to go from one to six. I'm sorry, we're not, we are going to go from one to four.

We are trying to be consistent with all of the other communities, and they were three-hour meetings. And I apologize in advance, that's not enough time. But we will be going till four o'clock. So I am going to try to get as many comments -- try to take all the comments.

So with that, I am going to try to go really quickly. I have these little protocols before we go into the comments, so that we can be fair to everybody. I have a court reporter here, Kathryn, who's going to take down everything that you say. But she can only take one person speaking at a time. So I am going to ask you to come up when you're called. When you come up to the mike, please state your name. And if you can spell it, that's great.

But they also have the audio. And I apologize if I mispronounce your name or if I don't get it right, I have a hard time sometimes understanding the writing. So I apologize.

If you want to speak in Hawaiian, please feel free to do so. We don't have a translator here, but if you would
like your testimony translated, we will make sure that the
audio gets provided to a translator. If you are
uncomfortable stating -- coming up to the mike -- again, we
have comment forms. Rhea also mentioned you can fax, you
can e-mail, and you do not have to give all your comments
tonight. You have 60 days to do that. If you give an oral
comment today, you can still provide a written comment.
They want to hear -- the secretary wants to hear -- as much
of your mana'o as possible.

There are -- obviously all of you are here and
you're here to listen or you're here to provide comments.
As we have been doing in the other meetings -- and again, I
do not intend to offend anyone -- but we are going to
provide you two minutes. So, I have Christine up here,
she's going to show you when you get to one minute and 30
seconds. I have a style about me, I don't want to get into
your space, but when you get down to about 10 seconds, I am
going to move closer to you. And that probably means you
have got to wrap it up.

If I gently put my hand on your shoulder, that
means your time has pau, and mahalo, and we are going to,
you know, your two minutes is up. So again, I do not intend
to offend anybody, but that seems to be working.

What we've done in the other areas -- because we
had a very nice following with us on Oahu -- and they all
1 wanted to comment. But what we found is we were running out
2 of time for the community that we went into. So I am going
3 to ask, if those of you who have provided comments at other
4 islands, if you would please permit the people who have not
5 provided a comment to speak first. And then after that, you
6 can make your comments. Given the importance of today's
7 meeting, the issues are, as you heard from everybody, it's
8 painful, some people are angry. But you have a lot to say.
9 I just ask that everybody be respectful both to the speaker
10 as well as the community, be respectful of them, and be
11 courteous. You know, we know that there's emotion. But we
12 would ask that there be -- limit the swearing -- no
13 swearing.
14 And with that, I am going to start with the
15 testimony. The comments are going to be based upon how you
16 signed up. So I am going to call the first five people up.
17 But if there's any kapuna here who would like to come up
18 early, please come up. We're going to take kapuna first.
19 If not, I am going to go down the list. Okay? When I call
20 your name, please come over here. You can sit at this
21 table. But no kapuna come up. So this is the first five,
22 and then please walk your way up.
23 Kaeo Kawae, Kalei Hawaa, Kilohana Roberts, Timmy
24 Leong and Davianna -- I hope you don't mind -- and then I
25 have Noa Emmett Alulu.
MR. KAWAE: Aloha, my kapuna. "To His Excellency, William McKinley, president, and the senate of the United States of America. Greetings. Whereas, there has been submitted to the Senate of the United States of America a treaty for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the said United States of America for consideration at its regular session in December, A.D. 1897. Therefore, we the undersigned Native Hawaiian citizens and residents of the District of Kona Honolulu, Island Oahu, who are members of the Hawaiian Patriotic League of the Hawaiian Islands and others who are in sympathy with the said league earnestly protest against the annexation of the said Hawaiian Islands to the United States of America in any form or shape."

From this, I have five of my kapuna on this page. And of course, we know there's thousands of them. So, just to give voice to this page -- (recites names from the petition).

When I leave this life, I will answer to these kapuna. Have I been behind them when they started this. It all goes back to the beginning. We cannot build -- we cannot build a nation to nation, a government to government. We cannot rebuild a nation-to-nation relationship until the havoc, the wrong, the injustice has been resolved. We need to go back to the beginning with this, with the over-throw, okay, with the nation that was no longer recognized.
Let us go back to the beginning. Okay. So that when I do go to the other side, they will welcome me, we will answer to a higher power. Mahalo.

(Appplause)

MS. HAWAA: (Speaking in Hawaiian.)

MR. ROBERTS: My name is Kilohana Roberts.

I am the son of David (inaudible) and the grandson of David (inaudible) III. I agree with Uncle Kaeo. I think that before we can move forward with any kind of Federal anything, any kind of anything, period, the wrong that was done should be made right, should be made whole again. And the 150 Statutes and all this land, all this money, that's great. But really, all of that is ours. I don't think we should take any kind of table scraps of the whole piece that belonged to us. So, I think that -- it's like you guys said before, but thank you, I don't like Federal recognition.

What I like is whatever you guys can do to get the people that you need to talk to, that we need to talk to, to reinstate the Hawaiian government, which is the legal government of this whole community. That's what I'd like.

So since that's not your kueolani, sorry, no thank you. But I don't think really have anything else to discuss right now. But thank you for coming in. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. LEONG: Aloha. My name is Timmy.
Leong. I would like to just say -- tell the people this --
red ribbon signifies support for Queen Liliuokolani's letter
of protest that she sent to the United States government
after she was overthrown. So if you see people wearing the
red ribbon, that's what it means. I want to thank you folks
for coming to present questions for us to ask or answer.

But, I think before we answer those questions, I
have a question that I need answered. And that question is,
maybe somebody from the Justice Department can help us,
Justin. But is it constitutional under the United States
Constitution to annex a foreign country with a joint
resolution of Congress and not a treaty of annexation?
Until I can get a positive answer to that question, all
these other questions are moot. There's no reason to even
go there. Because what happens is the Department of the
Interior, you have no business going to Iraq, Afghanistan,
Syria, China, anywhere.

So, what I'm saying is this. Until that question
is answered, I mean, you know, all this what we are going
through is irrelevant. It's only adding one more layer of
government on top of it. You know, we're adding on top of
the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, OHA, State of Hawaii,
all of this, and it's just irrelevant.

I have one more thing to say. You know, next week
is the fourth of July. And I realized that when I was
growing up it was a non holiday, we never celebrated the 
fourth of July. And I never thought about it till recently. 
And I thought, there was a reason why we didn't celebrate 
the fourth of July. Because our family felt it was very 
hypocritical to celebrate a country's independence that came 
and took away ours.

(Appause)

BY MS. CHANG: I have Noa Emmett Alulu.

After Emmett, I have Lawrence Aki and Cora Schnackenberg and 
James Duvauchelle, and Laree Mowat.

DR. ALULI: Aloha Kakou. I support an 
administrative rule that would facilitate the 
reestablishment of a government-to-government relationship. 
I support assistance in reorganizing our governance to 
reestablish a government-to-government relationship relying 
on the organizing of a Native Hawaiian Government through 
Kana Ioluwalu. I carry a legacy. The first hearing 
regarding statehood was held in Hawaii in 1935 by the U.S. 
House Committee on the Territories. There were 150 persons 
who testified; 90 were in favor and 60 opposed to statehood. 
Of those who testified, 17 were Native Hawaiians, and 15 
tested in favor, one opposed and one offered conditional 
support.

Significantly, my grandfather, Attorney Noa Webster 
Aluli, who had drafted and lobbied for the original Hawaiian
Homes Commission Act, stated that he would only support statehood if the welfare, well-being and non-extinction of Hawaiians would be protected. He urged the congressmen to include Native Hawaiians under the Wheeler-Howard Act or the Indian Reorganization Act, which had passed a year earlier in 1934.

So, as a physician on Molokai for 35 years, I know personally and professionally that our well-being and our wealth and our health is not improving. And unless we have more resources in the vehicle to kind of like better care and for those promotional programs, we won't make a difference as physicians in Hawaii, that's for certain. An example for me is the Alaskan Native Medical Center based in Anchorage.

As a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, our position is our Ohana supports all paths to sovereignty and will not block any pathways. The Federal pathway for sovereignty is important to open and to fulfill the terms of state law to transfer this island to a government federally and state recognized.

MR. AKI: My name is Lawrence Aki, I'm here to -- real simple actually -- all right. I understand your questions but I need to go back to what this has been from the very beginning. The 1893 overthrow, the 1993 apology recognizes the fact that we're almost done -- real
simple. You need to go home. Very simple. And allow us
the opportunity as Hawaiians to set up our government. Then
we talk story about whether we want to talk to you or not,
(Applause)

MR. DUVAUChELLE: Thank you, Sweety. You
can hear me? My name is James Duvauchelle, I was born and
raised on Molokai. My grandmother is up there, lot number
eight. I was born in Kolumpa (phonetic spelling) right on
their homestead.

And I just want to say thank you so much for your
patience, for your time for coming here, I know you put up
with a lot, you got to go through all this. But that's
okay, God bless you.

I just want to say that we are here today because
of what we believe. And the truth, the fact of the matter
is, the Hawaiian Kingdom still exists. It was never
dissolved. Instead, it was illegally overthrown by the
United States government. Therefore, it is my belief that
the puna thing to do is to restore the kingdom's existence.
It may not be the best thing to do, but because that's where
the injustice was done. So in order for justice to prevail,
we must first undo the unjursts. And this can only means,
people, it only can mean if we come together as people of
this aina. We got to work together. We've got to lift one
another up, we've got to move ahead. I believe this is an
opening to what we worked so hard for a long time that we've waited for something like this to come up. And we cannot go for them. We've got to pray for them. God bless them.

They came over here, offer us good things. We could have just said, no thank you. But no makes them -- (speaking in Hawaiian) Be nice.

And to our people, I want to say one thing. By this act of puna I believe our people can make sovereign decisions without political influence from the outside. And to my people, to everyone that is here today, I know this is a serious matter for us to consider. Yet, that's where the (inaudible) is right now. Right back to where it started from in 1863. Thank you, I don't like this. Thank you. I think we said it all. Together we stand, united we stand, divided we fall. God bless you all. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: I really appreciate all your courtesies, it's really hard for me. I am going to ask the speakers to ensure that everybody in the back can hear because we don't have the best sound system but we have got to go with what we've got. You've got to speak into the mike and really loud.

MS. SCHNACKENBERG: My name is Cora Schnackenberg. Aloha, everyone. I couldn't have said it any better than Uncle said it.
I was sitting -- I just found this out last night -- and I was a little bit disappointed on how us -- or how I got the information. But nevertheless, as I sat and read the questions -- and I was so honored and humbled to address the kapunas that this is history right now, it's unfolding. And I wouldn't be able to speak my manoa without those that had gone before us and make this an opportunity. I would like to say one, that there has to be an acknowledgement of wrongdoing.

Number two is, the Federal Government got their hand in the cookie jar. So it's difficult to even acknowledge the fact that your intentions are. And the third thing, I would like to say is that as our Hawaiian politicians who serves us, I'm really disappointed in them. Because we have never been asked to come as Hawaiians to discuss issues on the table prior to these people. And I really wanted to make it known to the media that our politicians that we put in office have never -- have never asked us -- come, we got one meeting over here, this is what's on the table, I like hear your manoa. This is sort of late. But nevertheless, I wanted to say that.

And the fourth one is our Hawaiian people, you guys, we all love each other, we also make room for those that are not Hawaiian. But I wanted to say this, that we
continue to be in separate organizations and fight each other. There's no way we can come to one. So I would encourage in the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ that we all come as one body. Thank you. Aloha.

BY MS. CHANG: Loree Mowat, David Lima and Kalapana.

MS. MOWAT: My name is Laree Mowat. I was born and raised on Maui. I live here now with my husband and my family here on Molokai and I love it. You know, I'm multi-ethnic. I have Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese. You know, and all of my family loves Hawaii and this is where we call home.

And so, my answers to the questions are no. I am in agreement with almost everyone that already spoke, you know. I believe in Jesus, he is a sovereign God. I believe he believes in sovereignty, that's what he wants for the Hawaiian people. And I love the calls of unity that I have been hearing. I am in agreement with that as well.

And my prayer is that the people of Hawaii, the ones that are not educated, you know, on these international matters as well as what's going on in the United States, that they would educate themselves. And that the wrongs would be made right, and that we would really look to God as a people for our answers and not a government.

(Applause)
MR. MOWAT: Aloha, everybody. My name is Hawaiiloa Mowat. First of all, I would like to say no to everything, all the questions, you know. You hear time and time, we like to know the answer. It seems like you guys are present us five questions for one question that Kaeo Kawae stated, you know.

And it seems like all right for if I bring up the Bible, it's like Jesus did all through the Bible, answer questions with questions for one reason, is that those who were trying to find him guilty couldn't find him guilty. He took the whole conversation, number one, if you ask me, Hawaiiloa, how your day going? And I say, oh, it depends how your day going.

You know, I just instill the conversation from you guys, I am not a leader of the conversation. You guys answering to me now. It seems that that's what is going on is, you know, you guys -- I am not going to say you guys -- I don't know you guys personally. But I will say that I no trust what is going on. Not because I do not trust you guys as individuals, but we can only trust the fruit that comes from the tree, you know. And the fruits from the tree so far will show bad fruits, was bad for us. And the taste in our mouth is bitter and we're tired of it. We like the good trees and the good fruits that you guys been feed -- talking about all this time. You guys feeding us thorns and
thistles, but we asking for mango. We like coconut, you know what I mean? We like eat good stuff. We like the benefit that is promised to us, not this hearsay, we're going to give you guys this. Because honestly, it's hard time to trust because these previous years, 121 years, we have nothing. But what we get for sure, people, nothing. Nothing for sure. And we're tired of it already. I like cry, you know what I mean? I'm sickened of it.

And, you know, I just wish that the individuals in these seats would take it to heart, put you guys' self in our shoes, you know. My kids now only 25 percent Hawaiian, I worry for them. That's the things we need to change. The only way we are going to get that change is if we get our own government. My son too, this stuff is out. Once we get our own government, people, we got to unify. So, let's unify, people. I speaking to you guys now because over here is on dead end. We got to come together, people. I speaking to all Hawaiians and non Hawaiians who is proud countrymen of this island. Let's unify. That is the only way we can do it, you guys, that's it.

(Applause)

MR. LIMA: Aloha. My name is David Lima. I grew up on this island. I guess my answer to all those questions is no. And I guess for them, they got to understand,
there is going to be a lot of people with plenty animosity and mistrust because of the history that was done. And more so, I don't know if they can understand this language. But they know there was a case called Hoball Resalisar (phonetic spelling) the Indians tribes against you guys. You guys tried to do this whole thing with them. They sue you guys for 100 -- what was it -- 106 billion. You guys settled, they settled for four million. But, billions, none of this land is worth any money, it's priceless.

So all these Hawaiians, they know that. They are not going to trust you guys. Right now it's about educating everybody. All the distrust is going to be continued, people is going to continue to not trust you guys. Not you guys but who you guys work for. So I think ultimately if you guys like no, you guys should go educate you guys' bosses to speak to the hearts of all these meetings that you guys went across the state. And that's the best thing you guys can ask for.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: After David is Kalapana Keluhoomalul, Helen O'Connor, Lori Buchanan and James McPherson. So you've got to speak loud. If somebody in the back raises their hand, that means they cannot hear and you've got something important to say.

MR. KELUHOOMALU: Aloha. My name is
Kalapana Keluhoomalu.

First of all, I just want to give God the praise and all the glory, because of him this is all happening. First of all, my answer to the question is all no. No. Aole, Aole, Aole. But can I entrust you with this? It's just evidence that the Kingdom of Hawaii -- just wants to my case is that I went through and how corrupt their judges are. And as we know, as the paper said too, the Kingdom of Hawaii does exist. But the judges just seem to still deny the motion to relief.

But anyway, about the Homestead Act, it's just a set-up, that eventually when each Hawaiian bred out their Hawaiians they end up -- the land go back to the Feds supposedly. So, just a gimmick.

Again, another thing about the DLNR, Federal funded that now -- now just to go out, go catch your kawakawa, you cannot just -- pretty soon you cannot just jump on a boat and just go and go get them. You've got to -- you need a license -- they tell you, you need a license for go.

Another thing is the coast guards running back and forth along those coasts is boarding our boats. So, just with that I know -- but you probably can do something and the Department of Justice -- and I know you can do something about that. So, with that, mahalo.
MS. CHANG: Thank you. Helen, Lori and James.

MS. BUCHANON: Aloha, Molokai. You came asking five questions. You guys all had the copy of the questions? They only here asking answers to five questions. And I just got this yesterday, so I couldn't have time to do my homework.

But on the first question, you're asking if the secretary should propose an administrative rule that would facilitate establishment of government-to-government relationship with the native Hawaiian community. My answer is no. Not unless a whole number of specific agreements on severability is first established, okay.

Number two, should the secretary assist the Native Hawaiian community in reorganizing its government which the United States could reestablish a government-to-government relationship. Hum. Hum. Maybe. But only under what I had already spoken about previously.

The real question for me that was a real concern was the third one. If so, what process should be established for drafting and ratifying a reorganized native Hawaiian government's constitution or other governing documents. That for me is the biggest question, and I am going to tell you why.
In 2011, I spent half of all of 2011 all the way into Christmas, every week in the evening on my personal time on the phone with Federal officials in a Section 7-106 consultation for native Hawaiian organizations. I represented my Ohana in those deliberations. I found then as I have subsequently found on every deliberation I've had with the Federal government, is that the process is very flawed. Very flawed.

The Advisory Council on historic preservation rules working with tribes and native Hawaiian organizations are very flawed. And so, that is where I have a big problem. I am not afraid of talking to the Federal government, I am not afraid of discussing anything with anybody. But that whole process is what is flawed.

And then there's two more questions. But the third question cannot be answered in 60 seconds. It cannot. So all of this is not fair. This process today is not fair.

(Applause)

MS. BUCHANON: Because you are asking me to provide feedback. She holding up the sign, says pau. I am not pau. These are very serious questions, and we all in this room found out only last week that you guys were going to be here. And so, that's my -- that's what is bothering me today. I am not afraid to talk with you guys, by the way. And I say, bring it. Okay.
MS. CHANG: I have James McPherson. And is Helen O'Connor here? Helen, you want to come up? And after Helen, I have Gene Ross Davis, Myron Okutagous, Wilma Joy, if you guys can come up too.

MR. McPHERSON: Speak loud. You guys put us on the spot, we've got to respond, you have got to be here in person. We cannot let this time go by. It is an opportunity for us to voice our dissatisfaction. But my name is James Kimo Kanali McPherson. My lineage goes way back, but that's beside the point.

What I'm here for is those five questions. They're all irrelevant, they're not appropriate. Like we just said two minutes, you've already stacked the deck. But I am here to tell you, I've had 33 years in the travel industry, I have gone all over the world. And for some reason, I ended up in Indian country in Oklahoma, in all those areas right there. And I know their relationship with the Department of Interior is not one that's good. The Department of Interior, the government has their own interpretation of the laws and the Indians have another interpretation of the laws.

What I'm here to tell you is, at least they have land, at least they have casinos, at least they have -- their customs that can be practiced. I have been into the
Virgin Islands too. They're not treated well either. And here's another fact. Have you ever been to New Zealand? The British have a treaty with the Maori, it's called the Waitangi Treaty. And even that, with the British, has been interpretation. The British interpreted that these natives are subjects of them. But I'm here to tell you the chiefs of the nation -- of the New Zealand areas that have land -- are thriving. And they're interpreting their manoa on how they are going to be ruled.

But it comes down to this place, this islands, this is the most isolated islands, and yet we don't even own -- we don't even have a place to practice our customs -- something has to be done about it. But you're asking me to tell you, how do you feel about the five questions? Yes or no. I'm here to tell you that I cannot make an interpretation in a few minutes you give me. That's very, very inappropriate behavior. And I'm here to tell you that it's going to be a while, you're going to get responses from all of us. And I guess my two minutes is up.

MS. O'CONNOR: I'm Helen (inaudible) O'Connor Lewis. I was born and raised in (inaudible) And I'm fortunate, and I also have a homestead in (inaudible.) Unfortunately, employment takes me to Oahu. The first thing I wanted to do first though is introduce Molokai to two native Hawaiians who are with this commission that's
Because you know what, we should be proud that we have native Hawaiians in positions like that. And also contacts that we can, you know, reach out to for assistance. First I would like to introduce Dee Jay Mailer. Dee Jay is a former president of the Global Fund. She just retired last year. And because of her leadership while she was with the Kamehameha Schools, we have all the preschools and many of the Kamehameha program on each island. You know, I just wanted to make sure everybody knows that she's part of the team. And she has been commissioned on the Asian, American and Pacific Islanders Affairs -- and native Hawaiians, yes. Actually, as native Hawaiians are asking that we pull out of that Asian American Pacific and become native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Commission of our own. Because there's more Asians than there are Hawaiians and Polynesians, you know, that they overtake everything we do.

The second person is Esther Kia'aina. She alluded to what she's doing with the Department Of Interior. But, Esther is going to be confirmed as the under secretary -- let me get this right, and you can correct me if I'm wrong -- under secretary of the Department of Interior for the Pacific Trust Territories. So her kuliana is going to be all the Pacific Trust Territories and we know that she always has our ear. Congratulations and thank you. And she's been a fighter for us Hawaiians for many
years. You know, I support our people coming together and
organizing a nation for ourselves. But however you decide
to do that, it's going to be our people's kuliana. And, you
know, I'm hearing something very strong from Molokai, what
you feeling about all of this. Let me say something.
Remember the ancient history of Molokai. Many times when
things happen, if we do the same prayers, we can open the
doors for it to happen. So remember that. It sounds like
all your hearts are in the same direction. So you are
opening the doors for the other side to come and help.
I have one question, though, and this is to the
Justice Department. If our people do decide to come up with
a government, will they be able to take over the Hawaiian
Homelands Trust and all our assets?
MS. CHANG: Aunty, that is an excellent
question. And what I am going to ask you to do is, I think
we are going to have some time for questions and answers.
So if you wouldn't mind holding that question until when we
can ask questions, and they are going to answer it for you.
But right now I am going to take the comment, okay. So you
make sure you bring -- you come up with that question.
(Applause)
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (He did not sign
in)
Richard (inaudible) I have got a junior around
and I ain't paying his bills. I have got to call this first
gentleman here (speaking in Hawaiian) The four of you has
come to represent your bosses, first of all, the government
that you work for, which is our government. And we are the
taxpayers to pay that, which we are not supposed to be
taking the tax from the (inaudible) side of the Hawaiian
Kingdom government. Hawaiian Kingdom government overthrown
in 1893.

Now, this government is still in order in the
records of the Library of Congress. They are supposed to
have 60 votes to pass, they had only 58, they ram it through
us again. Until then, they're still taking our (inaudible)
which is 700 trillion dollars over in the account. Congress
is broke. They need our money through the organizations
that they have. Colette is one of the wonderful
representatives for the Hawaiian people, the OHA. She has
to stand up to whatever questions she has. However, that
funds paying her and using for is under our own money.

My kapuna, I ask you to forgive me for coming
into your area and coming out and speaking. I am sorry if I
offend you. My brothers and sisters, I'm sorry if I offend
you. I come from (inaudible) on the northwestern shores of
Maui. I'm sure these people will be coming over to Maui
also. But I came here under music to do for Brother Billy
sitting on seat number 33, and for his son's graduation.
Now, I don't know if you was invited, I am not going to invite you, but you can come outside to the parking lot and listen to the voice. And Brother Walter, forgive me up here -- pau -- pau is something that -- it's an ongoing journey over and over and over again. That's what pau is.

Finish with the English, can understand it. If you get the word finish, I can understand it. But I want to tell you (speaking Hawaiian) change your names again, that you must go back and tell your bosses that it is irrelevant for the questions that you have brought to our (speaking Hawaiian) you have brought to our (speaking Hawaiian) You suffer the consequences for years. Everybody else in the world have law and reparation (speaking Hawaiian).

(Speaking Hawaiian) We're still paying tax, we're paying everything else to you. But it belongs to us.

See the flag over there? I don't know what the yellow fringes around the flag means. It's under the court. And their vessel is out there in the ocean, not here on -- they have not jurisdiction over us. (Speaking Hawaiian)
The Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to be patient, love one another, no matter what the circumstances. Our brother went out there, blew the (inaudible), our brother has the right to do what he want to do. We only got to speak in love, Brother. (Speaking in Hawaiian) I thank each of one of you for giving me the opportunity. If I offended you, I don't
want to do that, please forgive me. Mahalo, God bless all
of you.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: With that, I have Gene Davis.

And then I have Myron Okutagous, Wilma Joy and then I have
Sean.

MR. DAVIS: Before you start the clock --

Before you start the clock, I would like to make one
announcement if I may. Everyone is only looking at the five
questions. Can you guys hear me? Okay, can everybody hear
me now?

I have got to turn like this. Okay. I got it.

Up until now everything has been so last minute that most of
you only know about the five questions that is here for
comments. But I would like for you to refer to the web site
because there's actually 18 questions that's really
important. And you have 60 days, I believe, to respond to
that. And so this is just for public testimony today, these
five questions that you have. And so, maybe later on you
can advise us as to where we can find that web site.

Now you can begin the time. The document is
outside. And so the documents is -- the hand-out that we
received -- I read it, it was 27 pages, is that the one? I
saw the 18, 19 questions in that hand-out. So, that's the
really important one, so please respond. With that, you can
My name is Gene Ross Davis, born and raised in (inaudible.) I am a product of the Hawaiian Homelands project. I too am going to say no to all five questions. I truly believe we need to be referred to correctly. Yeah, I give respect to our native American brothers. But we should be classified differently. And because of that, out of due respect, I have a hard time supporting (inaudible.)

Once again, being a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homelands, I've learned so much. And I truly believe that Prince Kuhio had great intentions. It was a last-minute ditch to try to salvage a dying nation. And so, I am going to continue to support that. The problem with the Hawaiian Homelands is we were never really funded, and that's the problem. We needed Federal funding. Thank you for all that you do with the (inaudible.)

The state, I don't know where they're at. Gosh, it took 55 years and how many lawsuits. Finally, in the year 2015, they are going to pay for salary. We need development. We need for the small ants to incorporate the big ants and swallow it up and put people on the land. This is what that trust was made for.

And so, I am going to ask you, because this is in your jurisdiction, continue to play an active role, not a passive role. We've got to be proactive in this, this is
too late, the median blood quantum within our population has shifted. We are going to fall through the cracks. And so tyranny is a fearful thing for us to even approach Congress to deal with that matter. And we are going to depend on you, the kingdom building, mahalo, I see that. It's something that we've got to continue to do, yeah. We need to have federal -- some kind of recognition to protect ourselves so we can have our own constitution. Mahalo, everyone.

MS. CHANG: Mahalo. I will tell you.

Molokai, I really appreciate -- it is hard telling you you have to stop at two minutes, but I really appreciate that you guys are really keeping to that. So mahalo.

With that, I have Myron and then I have Wilma, then I have Sean and then Lynn.

MR. OKUTAGOUS: Can you hear me?

Hello. Myron Okutagous, brought up on East end Molokai near Lanai. Growing up over there, I never experienced, as you can tell every east end guys, we grew up, it's because we had plenty Hawaiians at that time. From coming all the way up to (inaudible) majority was Hawaiians. Our school, majority of Hawaiians. So we thought -- like fishing was so easy, God only blessed us that if you wish one fish you can throw blind, you can get fish. Anybody can almost feed their family when you're 12 years old, that is so much over
But right now, to answer that question, Pastor Richard said we will be -- we have got to fix our taxes or get on moratorium on it. You know what I mean? On the taxes of Hawaiians lands. Some of us lost our Hawaiian lands because we was taxed out. Many of our people get thousand names on top their one land. And they say, oh, not everybody paying their fair share so I don't want to pay the fair share.

In the meantime, the government waiting for that, you not pay your taxes, they take away the land, that's plain and simple. This is the land outside of Hawaiian Homelands. You Hawaiian Homelands people are guaranteed as long as you guys get blood quantum. But have family outside of Hawaiian Homelands who own lands.

So that's the question I want. If you guys can answer that and help us outside of that, it will be good. If you can help get our lands back that we lost because we couldn't pay the taxes, that would be good also. And the questions, they always bringing up the questions, all you guys got to do is change the questions. Maybe next time, change the questions and maybe put out questions so everybody will hear. Can put in suggestion what questions should be asked.

With that, I get a word from the Bible. And this
for our nation, and everybody here got to remember that, and everybody going to be blessed by that. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and all those that dwell within. That means God owns all, owns all. With that, I feel the blood of Jesus on everyone and his saving grace.

Amen.

(Appraise.)

MS. CHANG: Wilma and Sean and then Lynn.

MS. JOY: Okay, there is a way to do this, I imagine, okay.

Wilma Noelani Joy, third generation Hawaiian Homesteader. I currently live on lot 70, which has been in my family since 1925. My grandparents on both sides was the original homesteaders. And I am. But we're having problems too.

I support that the secretary proposed an administrative rule that would facilitate to reestablish a government relationship with the native Hawaiian community as a native Hawaiian government, on the condition that native Hawaiian is inclusive hundred percent to one percent Hawaiian blood quantum. The limitation by the Hawaiian Homes Act of 50 percent must be redone. The 100 percent is dwindling, the 50 percent is dwindling. Our children need to have the right, as I have, to have a homestead.

So, I say that this government recognize native
Hawaiians as hundred percent to one percent blood quantum.

I support a government that will bring down educational housing, health benefits to improve the conditions of the Hawaiians now and in the future.

The process itself that you speak of appears to be a long process. And I fear I am not going to be here by the time it's established. So I yield that to those younger than me, the next generation, my sons and daughters, to go through the process and approve the process. Because they're the ones who have to deal with it. I thank you very much.

MS. CHANG: I am on number 38, Sean. And then, after that is Lynn. Is Sean here? Is Lynn here? MS. DE COIT: Aloha, Molokai. Aloha, Department of Interior. Thank you for coming. My name is Lynn De Coit, I am third generation Hawaiian Homesteader. I would like to first start off with I am glad to see how many Hawaiians out here. It's so very few that I get to see so many of you guys.

But I like to start, number one, no to all five of the questions. And I think once we answer no to the five questions, that the rest of those questions in the back should not apply.

Number two, I think the failure of the Department of the Interior to educate the people first. Many of us
I have attended the meetings, have not been educated on the whole process. In my opinion, we have put the cart before the horse. We should know the benefits beforehand, and not create the government and find out what the benefits is later.

It is as if you, this department, has put a choke chain on our Hawaiian people. You guys keep us at arms length, try to use us as puppets. You must first assume the relationship and build the trust first. Occupation is the only insurance that we have and perpetual successorship. A nation of a nation would close the options to beneficiaries and our future generations. Though we might not have that power once this nation is built, where does it leave our kids and our kids' kids.

Let's not forget that many of us have seen what we've seen here on Molokai, but not forget that those who dwindled their way into the Department of Interior and have back yard dealings that we know nothing about. We've got to wake up. Okay? The Department of Interior should support the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the mission of Prince Jonas Kuhio that was set forth back then and correct the wrong. And I would like all of us to stand strong on this together. We must work together unifying. Mahalo.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: Next, I have Kanoe Davis,
Milipuna Davis, Ui Colon and then Tracy Ann Hau.

MS. DAVIS: Hello. My name is Kanoe Aloni Davis. I come from the island of Molokai. Can you hear me back there? Okay. I will talk a little bit loud to answer your questions.

First and foremost, my answers are no to all of your questions. I want to -- I am kind of nervous -- I have to write my little notes. But for me the biggest thing is, we need to have clarity, we need to have truth in order for us to make the right decisions for ourselves and our future. Without that, everything is still muddy. I think having these questions asked to us is also having us understand that we're settling for crumbs when we actually own the whole cookie.

So, you know, my thing is, is how do we establish government to government when in fact we are our own nation. Should be nation to nation, and we're not even there yet. And that is confusing, that there needs to be that clarity, there needs to be that honesty. There's so much confusion and haziness that's instilled in us which is passed down from generation to generation that we can't even decipher what is right and what is wrong. That is our problem because there is no clarity. And this next generation, they're growing up to understand, to push away the muddy waters and to clear it out for all of us.
The generation before us didn't have that. Our generation, my generation, we still trying to figure it out. This generation, they are going to be born into it. We have to support these guys. They are going to make that ultimate decision. Like Uncle said earlier, these questions are irrelevant. They are irrelevant, we own the cookie. That's our cookie. That's our own. And these guys, we have got to leave it for them to enjoy. Mahalo.

(Applause)

MS. DAVIS: She's nervous too, sorry. She wrote her own little -- is it okay for me to speak for her?

MS. CHANG: Yes, of course it is.

MS. DAVIS: It is in her writing and -- okay, you want me to read it? That's okay because, you know, she got to understand -- this generation got to understand we're here to protect them. Yeah. But it's okay to talk. And it is takes strengths to be up here. So you're doing a good job, Baby, okay. This is her testimony.

(Reading Hawaiian)

MS. DAVIS: "This land is for my children, this is my land, and this land is from my kapuna. (Speaking Hawaiian) Make it right. (Speaking Hawaiian) Speak the truth. Mahalo, return the hands to the center. Yeah."
Is that right?

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: With that I have Uli. After Uli, Tracey Ann Hau and Bridget Maoat. And then after that I have Brian, Bridget and James and Hanottano.

MR. STOCKEN: Aloha, everybody, and welcome to Molokai. Mahalo for this opportunity to address my concerns that would affect my family's future.

My name is Phillip Uluwihi Stocken. I am 75 percent Hawaiian and 25 percent Chinese. My native roots date back several generations before the arrival of Captain Cook. I am currently a postal service employee. I am -- I live on Hawaiian Homestead Land for the next 99 years. My concerns are as follows: We do -- there needs to be established a Federal recognition to recognize us as Hawaiians. My generations, I have multi-generations in my family, and I would like to keep my homestead within my family's confines. Lowering the Department of Hawaiian Homeland's blood quantum and support the government, support our government, the Hawaiian nation government, and assist in all that is Hawaiian. Again, thank you, and mahalo for this opportunity. Aloha.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: Thank you very much. If you have a written comment, you can leave it with us as well.
MS. HAU: Aloha. My name is Tracey Ann Kapuna Hau. My Ohana comes from the Big Island, but my family moved here after being raised in Indiana. We moved here in the 1970's. I graduated from Molokai High School. My dad worked here. My dad is now back on homestead in (inaudible) And I have the homestead here in Molokai. I just had my sixth puna born June 4. I'm about 85 percent Hawaiian. My kapuna just born, and I'm Hawaiian Korean. My daughter married Korean. My Puna just born is 85 percent Korean. So I'm saying, what does he have. What are my -- I have six -- what do they have. What are we leaving for them? It's been over 100 years since our kingdom was taken. But, I'm torn because in October 9, 2004, I am born again Christian. And I believe totally in the Lord, and that's Jesus Christ. Now, that's the torment for me because the Hawaiian people had their culture, they had it. But my grandparents -- my grandma believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. So, you know, we have to move forward. It's been many years, and there's the scripture that says when my people bow their knees, then he will give us everything we need. And that -- truly I believe that in my heart. And the word -- the word that we need is unity. We need to come together as a people, as Hawaiians. And this is not our land -- let me tell you that -- this is his land. We call
it ours but we are temporary here. It's his land. And
until we glorify him and say God, this is your land, Lord,
have your way, move -- let me tell you -- let me tell you,
he'll move and he will bless us as Hawaiians.

So, there is to me a confusion. And until we
come together, he won't bless us. So, I stand with that.
And I just say, you know -- Aunty, you know me. I love the
Lord. And I've only been a Christian 10 years. But let me
tell you, he's turned my life around. And God will
seriously -- he will move in our direction if we give him
all of the glory. Amen.

MS. CHANG: I know have Byron, then
Bridget, then James Spencer and Hanottano.

MR. ESPANOLA: Aloha, I love you guys.
I love you guys. I love you guys. I love you guys. My
brothers, you guys, I see you two guys. I love them dearly.
Wrong country. This is Kingdom of Hawaii. Wrong people,
they are not Native Hawaiian. Wrong place, we should be
(inaudible). You know, it's a lot of wrong things is going
on.

I'm glad -- I am a Filipino and I know my
nationality. I bet you there's a lot of Filipinos, they
don't know -- they think they are just a slave and they are
just the workers. But I know I am a National -- I am a
Hawaiian National. I am a Filipino and I'm proud of it.
1  Before I thought, oh, shucks, alien, tight pants, 
2  everything. But God is so good. I stand for independence. 
3  I stand for the continuity of our kingdom, I stand against 
4  the prolonged occupation of a belligerent, terrible, awful 
5  country. Because when we talk about -- a little while 
6  ago -- was like the wounded knee -- you know, was a lot of 
7  stuff. One minute 30 seconds -- if there's a petition, that 
8  my name will be on it, and my family's name will be on it. 
9  Will be the "Kule" petition. We will train my grandson over 
10  there to stand up. So when you guys going to come up again, 
11  going to be the same thing because we know history. There's 
12  a lot of lies, thefts and pillage against the paying tax of 
13  our Kapunas -- 20 seconds, pau -- okay. 
14   In closing -- in closing there is educational 
15  sanctions that was put upon our people, there was economic 
16  sanctions put on our people, the sanctions that will unite 
17  us as put upon our foreign enemies have fallen on the 
18  Hawaiians. I don't know how that happened, because we love 
19  them all, but not their sanctions. 
20   (Applause) 
21  MS. CHANG: I have Bridget. Is Bridget 
22  here? All right. 
23  MS. MAOAT: Aloha, Molokai. First of 
24  all, welcome to Molokai, and thank you for coming. 
25  And I not going to apologize for all the others
that spoke before me if they -- a lot of them was really
mad. And I cannot help but say they're the warriors. And
they just -- they mad. And I do want to say no to all five
questions.

And I'm from -- my mother is half Hawaiian, she
was brought up by her Tutu. In her life time she couldn't
speak her language. But they did anyway. The kapuna and
those of that age, they spoke Hawaiian anyway.

When the missionaries came, they took away our
Hula, which was part of genealogy. Our names changed. My
great, great, grandfather's name was (inaudible.) Today
he's (inaudible) no, it's not even that. His last name Hana
when we're supposed -- so when we try to track down
genealogy, we cannot even do that because everything all
changed.

So, I just -- I aloha everybody because we all
share the same God, our creator. I just feel there's too
much mistrust. And I think the cry for our unity -- not the
state government -- I talking about our people, the people,
the people who eat dirt, the people who work hard, the
people who have to live here and struggle. That's the
people that they still got the manoa. So, I think of unity
for all of us.

And I just want to say that in the old testament
Joseph -- God put Joseph in Egypt to get ready for that
famine. Well, maybe he placing you there for us now.

(Applause)

MS. NUEHU: Aloha. My name is Hanottano Nuehu, also known as her Highness. I am with the Hawaiian Kingdom government that's on the Iolani Palace grounds today. I represent Molokai. So, anyway, to let you guys know, only got two minutes, yeah.

So, in 2008, the Hawaiian Kingdom government that sits on the Iolani Palace was already recognized by the state legislature. And I have it right here. And the second thing is that, okay -- and the second thing was in 2011, we were arrested on the Iolani. And I again was one of the 22 that got arrested. We went to court in 2012, May 21, 2012, our case got dismissed. And it was a case of State of Hawaii versus Hawaiian Kingdom. So, after the case got dismissed, we are today still on the Iolani Palace. And they're trying to get us off there but they couldn't. Still to this day they cannot get us off.

But I'm here today to say, we need your help. We're already a government. And I am the acting first associate justice of the Hawaiian Kingdom government. I have here something that I'm going to serve them under Federal Rules of 902. That United States is a corporation, did you guys know that? The State of Hawaii is also a corporation. You're being handled under the corporate laws.
We're a kingdom, you're sovereign. They cannot -- they actually cannot come over 2600 miles and rule a country. The law -- the United States laws could not come over to the Hawaiian Islands, you know what laws you are under today? You're still with Hawaiian Kingdom laws.

The HRS are infringement, okay, they change a lot of things. Under HRS 1-1 is source of authority. It is our law. Hawaiian Judicial Precedence and Hawaiian usage. That's under HRS, and it's found in our civil codes, Chapter 57, Section 5. Okay? If you guys want to talk to me later, I will be around. Thank you.

Another thing, you know, the (inaudible) petition, that's who we are standing with, is our ancestors. I have got part of it. If you guys want to look at it, the answers are here listed, come see me.

MR. SPENCER: My name is James Puoa-Spencer, I am from Molokai. I wasn't going to speak today, I don't like speaking at meetings, but I was waiting 121 years for a meeting. Got to say something. I know you guys came with all these questions. My answer is no also. But, if you guys feel in your heart that all these people in here, what they're saying is right, and you feel like you guys want to do something, you guys in positions where you guys can do something. I ask that you
guys go back to the mainland and send the right people here, the people that all these questions should be asked to, all the things that we have problems with and stuff. You guys send the right people here. And I mean, thank you guys for you guys time, it is a step; I mean, it has to be in somewhere. But if you were talking to the wrong people, then we pretty much wasting our time, yeah.

I don't think that -- I mean like Sister saying about the kids, we've got to begin with kids. What you guys can do also is start educating them the right way, educate them about the overthrow, educate them about everything; about the annexation, about the petitions, you know, even in the mainland, educate them about it, put it in their school system about how they acquired Hawaii. And yeah, that's all, thank you.

MS. CHANG: I have Hano Hano. And then after Hano Hano, I have George Laiwohi, Robert, Sam. And then after that, the last person I have is Loretta Ritte. Then there are two people who had signed up before, Daviana and Walter.

MR. HANO: I am not American, I am not American. All five of your questions is no, okay? And shame on you guys for perpetuating the illegality. Shame on you guys for perpetuating the fraud.

Esther, I know you. I know Dee Jay. Hey, if you
guys so connected to your kapuna, was next to the queen,
you're not going to be remembered as a hero, you're going to
be remembered as a traitor. The Department of Interior, all
you guys right here, get out of here -- we don't need to
talk to you guys, you're the wrong guys. If you think you
are going to come over here, Uncle Jimmy, Uncle Richard,
they treat you guys so nice, yeah. From Queen Liliuokalani,
all the way down they've treated you nice. What reciprocity
we got from you guys? Shit. That's what we got.

Hey, we got to talk real. Only got two minutes, I
am not going to get around the bush, right. And you guys,
hey, we participating in something you guys have no
jurisdiction over. So, me, I feel like a traitor too
because I am participating in what Federal government's
action for make us a nation. I shaming my damn self. I am
a Hawaiian subject. You guys sit on Hawaiian lands. You
like your boss, you guys go back tell them, oh, I sorry but
we got Lincolns and we deserve to get more Lincolns, right.

I was fortunate enough in 2000 -- and thank you,
Brother, for bringing up a court case that really don't even
mean nothing. The court case you should have brought up was
Lance Farston (phonetic spelling) versus the Hawaiian
Kingdom at the Hague. I was lucky, I was there. Esther,
you wasn't there, America didn't even show up. Didn't even
show up. But I tell you one thing, only nations could walk
through the doorway of the World Court. I walked through
100 times.

So, all this that we now a nation, I cannot show
you -- we were a nation -- I was there, okay. So all this
bologna, all this -- you guys are crackers. You try to fill
us with fear. You're trying to fill us with fear like we
are going to lose something you gave us. I'm starting to
explain to everybody what you gave us, one piece of a donut,
one piece of a donut, not even one donut. So what you guys
offering us now, one whole donut. We living in the bakery.
Six billion dollars on Paris alone on the airport and on the
harbors.

And we grumbling -- oh, we get two million, three
million, that's nothing. Even a little kid can tell you,
oh, two million versus six billion, I will take the
six billion. So, hey, thank you guys so much for coming
over here and doing your best. And I no want to burden you
guys. But I can promise you, it do not burden you as much
as it burdens us. So again, thank you for helping. Go back
and tell them we don't like the Indians, right. And you
guys cannot help us. You are the wrong guys. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: We now have George Laiwohi,
Robert, Sam and then Loretta.

MR. LAIWOHI: Aloha, everybody. My name
is George Laiwohi. You guys can hear in the back? Okay,
this is how I got to hold the mike so they can hear. Back
there everybody's hand going up. If you're only talking
right over here, they lose out. I'm sure that everything
you have to say is important.

This is a tough subject, you know, because -- and
thank you for coming. You know, you try your best, you guys
getting beat up every single island. But, you know what? I
mean, this is the chance for us guys to speak, yeah.

And I want to use Queen Liliuokalani as my example
of how to conduct herself facing all of that, all of the
overthrow and everything. She could have just said, help
me; and guess what, we all be killing all those guys with
the guns, right? What would have happened after that? We
would be at war. And then, rightfully so, they would have
took over the government. But this gives us an opportunity,
because we waited 121 years later to finally be able to say
something.

I speak on behalf of my kapuna, my Grandmother
Harriett (inaudible) Spencer, who lives by Coconut Grove, 90
years so far holding to the homestead. I worried about
that, you know. I have homestead too, I worried about that
too. Because you know what, there should never be a blood
quantum, none. Hawaiian is Hawaiian is Hawaiian. You're
not Hawaiian because you're born here, you're Hawaiian
because you have the blood. Right now we're not recognized as Hawaiians -- thank you, 30 seconds -- we are not recognized as Hawaiians.

But my kapuna, she always felt this, God owns everything. And if he wanted to, one earthquake will solve this question right off the bat. He owns everything. So, we really got to remind ourselves that we have got to conduct ourselves -- we have got to get together though -- I say aole. I'm open to the opportunity for us guys to talk together so that we can make sure we're right. Because I don't want corrupt -- corruption is everywhere -- thank you -- corruption is everywhere, every race, every place. So when you get power, then you get corruption. I want us all to work together. Mahalo.

MS. CHANG: Robert. And then after Robert is Sam, and then Loretta. Sam, are you here?

MR. ESPANOLA: Aloha, everyone. My name is Robert Edwin (inaudible) Espanola. This is my son, Edwin Espanola. Third generation. And I hear everybody's testimony and it's practically the same thing. So, we would like to say as our family, no, aole. Thank you.

MS. CHANG: Is Sam here, Sam O'Hara? If not, Loretta. Sam is coming up.

MR. OHARA: Aloha. My name is Sam Keoloha O'Hara. I am a veteran -- third generation veteran
of the United States Army. My grandfather is Charles Keoloha, a veteran of the first world war. My dad is a veteran of the second world war, the Korean War and the Vietnam war. I am a veteran of the Cambodian war. And I am also a veteran of the return of the (inaudible). The manoa that I've said to the Department of Interior is really to you, Mr. Tanaka, Mr. (inaudible ) Mr. Conrad Jones and Mr. (inaudible) -- especially you. I dedicate this manoa to the Kapuna of Hawaii. And I see very small, they're not here anymore. But we started this journey 38 years ago. We decided on the concept of our constituency. We didn't go to the (inaudible), we did not go to any of the chiefs. We decided, and we decided to correct this ourselves. And the recognized native Hawaiian, that all the world knows who we are, including the Department of the Secretary.

Mr. Secretary, the river of justice may be flowing to the prairies and the plains of the continent of the United States, but the river of mauka to makai for the native Hawaiians, the justice, the free flow of justice, there is no water. Mr. Secretary, the historic plague of corruption, abuse by the State of Hawaii. But the main problem is the confusion of self-determination that has plagued our community mainly by our born and raised Hawaiians, they have confused the issue of self-determination. I take two days to learn and understand what
this bullshit about, I have two minutes to explain to you my manoa.

(Applause)

MR. ESPANOLA: The last act is Act 195.

Of all the things we need, native Hawaiians, is for this group of state to facilitate anything for us. We have to work directly with you, of course, we understand that, because we are native Hawaiians. We are not Indians. We see how you -- when go chief treat the native Indians, we see how you did that deal.

And the deal that you made for us as the 50th member of the family of the United States of America, we are part of that family. And I did not see the (inaudible) or any of the chiefs come forward. They was all hiding in the kiawes. And it took (inaudible) to come forward 38 years ago. And we have been waiting for 38 years at the table, waiting for anybody that we can talk government to government, that we can talk self-determination. Not one chief showed up, not one (inaudible) showed up. Nobody showed up but the (inaudible) from across the State of Hawaii. We had met 38 years ago and we decided to move, and you long-time born and raised as Tanaka (inaudible) we are all one family. Yes. We are. But our kapuna had decided long time ago not to eliminate you but to make you part of our family, and that's what we have been doing all these
years. It is emotional. I send my prayers to our brothers and sisters who are walking in foreign aina, they're laying down their lives where we can talk government to government. Our prayers to the family of our nation, and including the 49 other tribes. Thank you.

MS. CHANG: After Loretta, Daviana and Walter, because you signed up, and then we are going to take questions.

MS. RITTE: Wow, hard people to follow.

Aloha. My name is Loretta Ritte, and I'm wearing the red ribbon so you know my stands. But I would also like to add to the record the voices of the our kapuna from the year 1897. Their voices come from the print, black and white print, of the San Francisco column written by Miriam Michelson, American journalist, who came during the annexation.

And the first man to write was from Molokai and his name was Hekipi. And he writes, "I honestly assert that the great majority of the Hawaiians on Molokai are opposed to annexation. They fear that if they become annexed to the United States they will lose their lands. The foreigners will reap all the benefit and the Hawaiians will be placed in a worse position than they are now."

There were also other Hawaiians at this meeting in Hilo, and these are some of the things they had to say.
"This is my feeling, I love my country and I want to be independent -- now and forever."

"This birthplace of mine I love as the American loves his. Would he wish to be annexed to another greater land?"

How dare the United States rob a people of their independence. The American nation has been unjust. How could we ever love America. And here are some words for the voices of us today, and the young generation.

James Kauhi has said, "Do not be afraid, be steadfast in the love for your land and united in thought, protect forever the annexation of Hawaii. Kolau Campbell said, "Stand firm, my friends. Love of country means more to you and to me than anything else. Be brave, be strong, have courage and be patient. Our time will come."

And Emma Nawahi said, "Our hope, our one hope is in standing firm shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart."

Aunty Clara from Molokai said, "Hawaiians can teach the world all about Aloha."

George Laiwohi said, "Do your homework." Well, we've done our homework and we find that there's been some illegality done. The United States is guilty. We want our freedom and we want our nation. And we need to unite so we can all come together and be able to do that. Mahalo.

(Appause.)
MS. CHANG: I have the last two who have not spoken is Debra and then Miena.

MS. KANAWAHIWALI: Thank you, Aloha. My name is Debra Kanawahiwali. I come from a generation that came from Maui. Our great Tutu had brought the family to Molokai to prepare for homesteading. But not just homesteading, they repaired all the fish ponds and planted the taro. That was our clan, that was the (inaudible) clan. When we have moved from Lanai, came down to (inaudible) was to prepare the land for the first homesteaders. (inaudible) I live on (inaudible). Our homestead is from 1924. So we're 90 years old now. In 10 years, I don't have a guarantee, but I will, that we are going to have 100 years slapped back to our lease. And that land is for all my children. Okay?

What I'm told is that we need to subdivide. I don't feel that need. We have the land, we have the space. My kids can go on without having to go on the lease like everybody else and wait for land, we can pass it on.

But for those who's on the list, the list needs to be extinguished. Put the people on the land. Release the monies, put in infrastructure to farm everything. We cannot farm our land and we are the closest, we are just as close to (inaudible) That's water, dirty water that we need to put on our land. We're always constantly told that we,
my husband and I, need to get a pump in order to get
pressure, water to our land. And there is a threat of being
taken over, the place being taken. No, it won't. It won't
be taken away from us because of infrastructure that the
department has not given us anything; and nobody else is,
and nobody else will. But the land is for my children and
my grand and my great, and it will carry on with the same
name, same family. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: The last person who signed up
is Manhattan Ross. And then after that the
other two is Daviana and Walter.

MR. ROSS: Aloha. Trying to figure out
what I got to say. Not supposed to be really talking
because I know this is for the people of this island to
decide. But we were born and raised here, and so we have
some kind of input.

I read the questions one through five. And I think
question one, no. Question two, no. Question four, no.
Question five, no. But I think the one that really caught
my eye was question three. It says, if so, but what if no
so. Yes. We don't want a so. We don't want the Federal
government, we didn't want the state government. We want a
process to establish drafting of ratifying a native Hawaiian
constitution by an independent facilitating nation.
We want an international tribunal for the people of Hawaii to decide their native Hawaiian government's constitution. And as long as the -- a lot of words I would use right here, but I choose not to. Well, let's say one, the crooks from the Federal and state government continue try and facilitate and control the process that will never happen. But up until we have an independent tribunal where a neutral nation shall come and facilitate the process between the Hawaiian people, the Hawaiian government, our (inaudible) and the United States, then we shall truly have something that is really meaningful to our people.

So as long as the Federal government or state government facilitates the process, it's a false process. Because we cannot trust anything that's happened over the last 150 years. But, if there's an independent nation that will facilitate the process, then maybe we can get somewhere. Mahalo for your time. Aloha.

MS. CHANG: I have two more that signed up, Wanette Lee and Wendy Espanola.

MS. LEE: Aloha. May name is Wanette (inaudible) Lee, and I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised here on Molokai. I was born and made a citizen of the United States but not my choice. I'm (inaudible). I grew up during the times Hawaiians were shouting aloha aina, and the movement of returning the rights as people as these
islands, and has now evolved till today. The knowledge of
the havoc that the United States has done to us as people of
this land has been brought to light. And one day at a time
as the truth unfolded, the United States government
continues to play their games.

My kapuna, who is my Lord and Savior, operates the
glory to him for he knows the truth. My humble plea; my
grandparents, my parents and now me, I stand before you.
The blood and sweat and tears that my kapuna had laid before
me, I see the victory coming to pass. It's enough of your
manipulations, your colonization, that our people has
suffered too long.

We are Hawaii. And I declare, as my humble plea
did over 100 years ago, that the actions taken by the United
States was forcibly and illegally done against the Hawaiian
Kingdom. And that I quote our Queen Liliuokalani, "The
United States shall undue the action of its representative
and reinstate me the authority which I claim as the
constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands." Unquote,
Queen Liliuokalani, 1893.

We are proposing that your hard work that you took
preparing is another -- sorry to say -- a slap in the face,
like the apology bill that was also presented some years
back. None of your proposals give us, the people of Hawaii,
the rightful ownership and power to our lands. We will
still be under the direction of some other government or entity. From 100 years-plus has kept us in bondage. Please take it a step back, and allow the people of this land to manao what has been made since 1893.

I say no to all five proposals that you put before the people of Hawaii, and yes to the (inaudible) to govern what was never yours in the first place. Aloha. We welcome you on our island and now it's time for you to return home.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: The last person is Wendy Espanola.

MS. ESPANOLA: Aloha. My name is Wendy Espanola. I am going to turn in a written testimony as well. So I know that I have been following the paths of the meetings and, you know, said all the facts. I say no to every single question that you asked. But I just want to take my time to quote from what I found.

Mrs. Kuaihelani Campbell, the president of the Women's Hawaiian Patriotic league; this journal is from an article in San Francisco newspaper back in 1897. And it was her place that she went to Hilo, she went to a meeting where they held a meeting where all the Hawaiians came out. And Mrs. Emma Nawahi was there also.

And I want to read from that where she says --
Emma says, "We Hawaiians have no power unless we stand together. The United States is just the land of liberty. The people there are the friends, the great friends of the weak. Let us tell them -- let us show them that as they love their country and would suffer much before giving it up, so do we love our country, our Hawaii, and pray that they do not take it from us. Our one hope is in standing firm shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart. The voice of the people is a voice of God. Surely that great country across the ocean must hear our cry. By uniting our voices, the sound will be carried on so they must hear us."

And this is talking about the "Kue" petition. Mrs. Campbell also says, "Stand firm, my friends. Love of country means more to you and to me than anything else. Be brave, be strong, have courage and patience. Our time will come." And she says, "Sign this petition, those of you who love Hawaii. How many, how many will sign?"

And she goes on to say -- anyway -- there's many quotes. And the people are crying out, the same thing that's being heard today. I want the American government to do justice. America helped to dethrone Queen Liliuokalani. Let them see their injustice and restore the monarchy. "Tell America I don't want annexation, I want my queen."

"I am Kauhi of Kalaoa, we call it Middle Hilo. There's 300 members, members there were opposed to the
annexation. They're talking about never. No annexation at all."

So -- and the same thing, this one person from Molokai, Hekipi, a delegate from Molokai to the league writes, "I honestly assert that the great majority of Hawaiians on Molokai are opposed to annexation. They fear that if they become annexed to the United States they will lose their lands. The foreigners will reap all the benefits and the Hawaiians will be placed in a worse position than they are today."

So it's echoing the thoughts of today. And, you know, we're illegally occupied. It is a prolonged occupation, we have been Americanized, and we need to change that because it started from deceit and lies from the very beginning. And that's not working. So we need to become one nation, a nation to nation. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: We wanted to make sure -- yesterday when we were on Lanai, the questions went really well. So I do have two people -- I am going to ask Davie and Walter if you wanted to say something because you had signed up. And after that we want to go into questions and answers. Okay, so Davey.

MS. McGREGOR: Aloha, I am Daviano (inaudible) MacGregor. I live in (inaudible) as well as
(inaudible.) (Speaking Hawaiian) Are the natives, indigenous aboriginal people of the island of Hawaii, and we have the right to be formally recognized by the U.S. Federal Government as an indigenous people just as all other indigenous peoples are in their states. I say yes to question one, with Federal assistance, and relying on the (inaudible) process. Because I believe that a recognized Hawaiian government can more effectively protect our lands and our resources than a state recognized Office of Hawaiian Affairs. And that a recognized Hawaiian government can also use its resources to support the overall decolonization of Hawaii more effectively.

Second, I support the decolonization of the multi-ethnic nation of Hawaii. And in recognition of the outpouring of concern everyone has so far expressed for Hawaii as an independent nation, can the Department of Interior issue a statement that will assure the native Hawaiian community that the Federal process being contemplated is separate and distinct from the international process for the decolonization of Hawaii. And in setting up that door for Federal recognition, can you assure us that having that recognition will in no way interfere, derail or block the questions for the independence of that multi-ethnic nation of Hawaii. This is very important. As a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, we support all pathways to
self-determination, both international recognition of Hawaii as an independent nation and Federal recognition of Hawaii and our native Hawaiian people, Federal recognition of our native Hawaiian people and nation. Kaho'olawe stands ready to be recognized by the U.S. government and the State of Hawaii -- I'm sorry to be -- is waiting to be governed by a sovereign entity that is recognized by both the Federal government and the state government. And so we are very anxious to support Federal recognition so that Kaho'olawe can come home to the native Hawaiian people. Mahalo.

BY MS. CHANG: Walter?

MR. RITTE: Aloha. I want to say aloha to the panel here. Mahalo. I am going to read this thing because it is so much confusion going on, if I don't read it, get mixed up here. So mahalo for your offer of kokua. Your solution of a government-to-government relations is both too little and too late. No to all of your questions. It has become painfully obvious from these hearings that those Hawaiian leaders who have called you here in hopes of protecting our entitlements and increasing Federal funding have done so without consulting their people. This effort started with trying to pass congressional laws with the backing of some of the most powerful politicians in the United States, including support from the president. We are now at the bottom of the barrel,
asking for permission to make administrative rule changes.

This is the too little.

On the late side, Hawaiian community is now in the middle of a process aimed at the reestablishment of their kingdom. We are interested in the unification of our people. We are interested in a process that will unify. Your last-minute process has not allowed us to organize and discuss. It is separating us to choose between becoming an Indian tribe or the road of independence.

These hearings represent an honest reaction from the Hawaiian community. The majority is in no mood to continue our subservant relationship with the United States. Hawaiians are calling for unity which will not only protect our entitlements, but so much more.

In closing, I want to again say mahalo for coming and hitting the beehive and awakening our people. We are standing up and putting onto the National register the same love of country as our Kapuna did in the "Kue" petition. Mahalo.

(Applause)

MS. CHANG: With that, we are going to go into questions. I know Aunty Helen, she had a question, but before we go into questions, because we may get very close to closing, I wanted to make sure I let you know that a lot of you -- there are many ways for you to make comments. And
so, take a comment form, check the web site. The web site
is www.doi.gov. They will have updates on there. The
comment period is until August 19. And they will take all
of your comments. The secretary will consider both oral and
written comments as well. So please, no decision will be
made.

Now, with that, I want to open it up. Are there
any questions? Aunty Helen, she had one. So, do we have
other questions?

(Public Comments were concluded.)

* * * *

(RALPH ROSENBERG COURT REPORTERS, INC.
(808) 524-2090)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF HAWAII

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

I, KATHRYN PLIZGA, Notary Public, State of Hawaii,
do hereby certify:

That on June 28, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. the Public Meeting regarding whether the Federal Government should reestablish a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community was taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewriting under my supervision:

That the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

I further certify that I am not an attorney for any of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the cause.

This 62 page transcript dated June 28, 2014 was subscribed and sworn to before me this ___________ day of July, 2014, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

__________________________
KATHRYN PLIZGA, Hawaii CSR 497