



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

Aloha Kakou! The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC), a Native Hawaiian advocacy organization, is currently comprised of sixty eight component clubs in Hawaii and sixteen states on the continent. The first civic club was organized in 1918 by Prince Kuhio when he served as a Delegate to the US Congress, only twenty years after the United States overthrow of the sovereign Nation of Hawaii. Prince Kuhio recognized the need for Native Hawaiians to learn this new system of government and to become engaged in its intricacies. Nearly a century has passed, and while the Hawaiian civic club movement has expanded, it has never deviated from its course to be involved in issues of civic importance by providing an uninterrupted chain of advocacy for Native Hawaiians.

In 2011, through Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii, the State of Hawaii gave formal acknowledgement to what had always been understood, that Native Hawaiians are the only indigenous Native people of Hawaii. The Federal government, however, continues to withhold recognition of Native Hawaiians as a Native people even as it touts the “Pacific Continent” and the ultra-essential role Hawaii serves to bridge a vast divide in a shrinking world.

As Hawaiian voters, we are keenly aware of the advances in parity brought to Native Americans and Alaskan Natives championed by the Hawaii members of the U.S. Congress, and in particular, Senator Daniel Akaka and the late Senator Daniel Inouye. We find it ironic and disconcerting, therefore, that despite their efforts, Native Hawaiians are still being denied the same benefits held by other Native people of the United States.

Just as we trusted our two Senators to make fair decisions for decades, we trust and urge that as the revision of 25 C.F.R. Part 83 Federal Acknowledgement Regulations is being considered, that those unfavorable sections will be amended to provide Native Hawaiians the measure of Federal equality currently being withheld.

We send much gratitude and aloha for the opportunity to testify.

Contact: Jalna Keala; jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

