

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS, OF

**H.C.R. 233 AND H.R. 202, REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, THE OFFICE OF
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME
LANDS TO ORGANIZE AND CONVENE A CONFERENCE TO BEGIN
DISCUSSIONS FOR A HAWAIIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing date and time: April 1, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

Aloha Chairperson Carroll, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, with amendments, of H.C.R. 233 and H.R. 202.

The primary purpose of HCR 233 and H.R. 202, as we understand it, is to have convened a conference to begin discussions for a Hawaiian constitutional convention to lay the groundwork for planning, designing, delegating, and commencing a process of deciding native Hawaiian self-governance. We agree with this purpose. However, H.C.R. 233 and H.R. 202 has provision in it that provides that the convening of such a conference is to be organized by the Governor, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We are **in opposition** to this latter provision as we believe that the organizing and convening of such a conference must be driven by the Native Hawaiian community without interference of government.

Accordingly, we recommend the **amendments** shown on the attached copy of HCR 233 (which mirrors H.R. 202).

Since 1996, the Association has adopted 15 resolutions concerning self-determination, sovereignty, and nationhood building. Of note, in 2003, we passed resolution 03-32 "Reaffirming Commitment to Advancing Native Hawaiian Sovereignty and Self-Determination", which reaffirmed the Association's commitment to advancing Native Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination, including all political status options; and that these political status options include integration, free association, and independence. The Association will continue to partner with and support Hawaiian organizations consistent with this and past resolutions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO ORGANIZE
AND CONVENE A CONFERENCE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS FOR A
HAWAIIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

WHEREAS, presently, native Hawaiian people do not have
a governing entity or organization that represents all
native Hawaiians on issues important to the Hawaiian
community; and

WHEREAS, a Hawaiian constitutional convention is a
process that would ensure political, economic, social, and
educational advancement and protection of native Hawaiians;
and

WHEREAS, native Hawaiian people need time to engage
freely, without fear of threat or intimidation, in public
debate to discuss the various options of self-governance
available to them; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili'uokalani, Hawaii's last reigning
monarch, said:

"The cause of Hawaii and independence is larger and
dearer than the life of any man connected with it.

Love of country is deep-seated in the breast of every
Hawaiian, whatever his station."; and

WHEREAS, a conference to begin discussions for a
Hawaiian constitutional convention can lay the groundwork
for planning, designing, delegating, and commencing a
democratic process of deciding native Hawaiian self-
governance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Governor, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is requested to support a Native Hawaiian community-driven convening of a conference ~~to organize and convene a conference~~ to begin discussions relating to holding a Hawaiian constitutional convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Native Hawaiian Organizations ~~Governor, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands~~, in convening the Hawaii constitutional convention conference, are urged to ensure opportunity for full discussion and consideration of issues critical to the self-governance of the native Hawaiian people, including but not limited to:

- (1) A determination of Hawaiian citizenship;
- (2) The selection of a governing entity or other political governmental system;
- (3) Procedures to resolve conflicts;
- (4) ~~Development of a legitimate and effective constitution within the larger United States political framework; and~~
- (5) Hawaiian political cultures and traditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands are requested to encourage the participation of all Hawaiian organizations, political and social groups, and clubs to the conference so that the native Hawaiian population is well represented; and

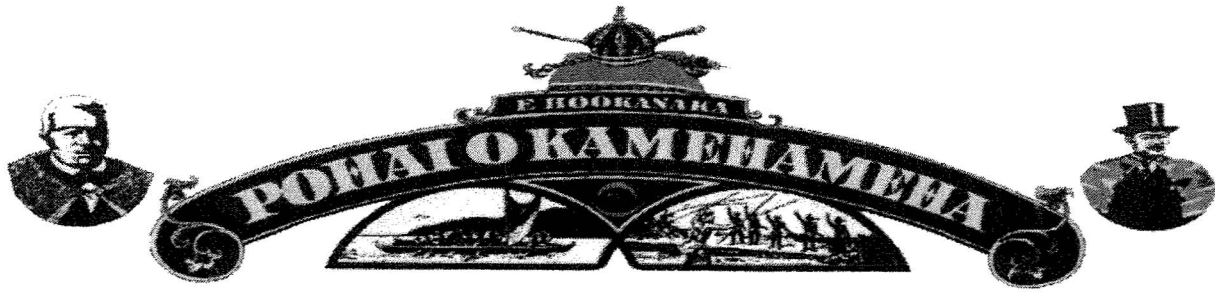
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands are requested to support the conference, providing necessary monetary or logistical support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,

the Chairperson of Hawaiian Homes Commission; and the President of the Association of Hawaiian Civil Clubs who, in turn, is requested to distribute it to all Hawaiian civic clubs and other appropriate social and political organizations.

OFFERED

BY: _____



Royal Order of Kamehameha I

Mokupuni O Maui

March 31, 2009

TESTIMONY OF ALI'I NUI AND GRANDMASTER CLIFFORD HASHIMOTO KGCK IN OPPOSITION TO

HCR 233 - REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO ORGANIZE AND CONVENE A CONFERENCE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS FOR A HAWAIIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha kakou Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I appear before you today as the Ali'i Nui and Grand Master of the Royal Order of Kamehameha to voice the Order's opposition to the proposed **HCR 233**. We have no confidence that the State Administration has native Hawaiians interests at heart as witnessed by the proposed sale of Ceded Lands.

The Royal Order of Kamehameha was a creation of His Majesty, Lot Kapuaiwa Kamahameha V on April 11, 1865 to commemorate the memory of his grandfather Kamehameha Ekahi.

The members of our organization fully agree with the notion that native Hawaiian people deserve to be involved in crafting a governing entity that is suitable to our nature, ideas, history, values and cultural ways which we have consistently practiced

We find no fault in anyone's desire to move into or about in modern society seeking to elevate their economic or social positions, and we encourage this desire. However, the fact remains that traditionally, most Hawaiians prefer to be family and local community centered more so than attaining or achieving personal public recognition and economic status.

Our Order has consistently remained bound to its purposes to cultivate and develop in our people the attitudes of Honor and Loyalty to our Dynasty and its institutions, promote the welfare and improve the conditions of our people all the while remaining removed from political activity.

In December 2008, our position of remaining detached has changed. We are convinced that changes in the attitudes of many inhabitants in our State against the special interest of Hawaiians threaten the existence of our people.

This Order believes that the most effective way for us (native Hawaiians) to maintain our identity, culture, and economic well being is to actively participate in forming its own governing entity rather than leaving it in the hands of the United States Congress and its administration.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.