

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
March 2, 2011 Conference Rm 329

LATE TESTIMONY

HCR 63 / HR 56: REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE THE DELEGATES AND OFFICERS OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONVENTION WITH THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK.

Chair Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, V. C. Chris Lee and Members:

Aloha kakou and Good Morning. My name is Dante Keala Carpenter and I speak in favor of *HCR 63 / HR 56 Requesting the State of Hawai'i to provide the Delegates and Officers of the Native Hawaiian Convention with the financial and other support needed to complete their work.*

Since 1999, I have been one (1) of 78 elected Delegates and an active member (as Vice-Chairman) of the Native Hawaiian Convention ("NHC"), aka 'Aha Hawai'i 'Oiwi ("AHO"). This body-elect, which was created by several Legislative actions from the mid-1980's and which authorization included an election from the traditional moku (districts), included continental U. S., as well.

The suspension of activities of AHO circa 2005 was due, in large part, to inadequate funding to complete the work of the body, as well as the potentially "imminent passage" of the federal Akaka Bill in Congress in 2006.

It is the intention of the Convention Officers to reconvene the NHC/AHO at this time, owing to the demise in 2010 of the federal legislation, and continue to pursue to an early conclusion its nearly completed mission. An estimate of time and costs to complete the charge of the NHC approximates 3-4 months and at a cost of \$150,000. We suggest that costs could be shared between the State of Hawaii and OHA.

Upon the finalization of two (2) models of government, an independent nation-state and an integration model similar to that proposed in the federal legislation, the eligible Native Hawaiian constituency would vote on the measure(s).

Finally, while there are several other meritorious bills under consideration in both House and Senate this session, regarding forms of Reorganized Hawaiian Nation or Government activity, we strongly suggest allowance of the NHC/AHO to proceed to complete its purpose and mission would be consistent with previous actions of the legislature.

We strongly recommend passage of HCR 63 and HR 56. Mahalo a nui loa.