



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONFERENCE WRAPS UP

HONOLULU – The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement wrapped up its 4th annual conference today. More than 900 people gathered for the four-day conference to discuss current topics important to Native Hawaiian communities, including education, housing, the economy, the Akaka Bill and the Kamehameha Schools lawsuit.

On the last day of the conference, a special luncheon was held, dedicated to Hawaii's veterans and current military men and women. Keynote speaker U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka emphasized that Native and Pacific peoples have one of the highest records of military service per capita of any group in the United States. The audience was shown a very moving video that was dedicated to 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe, who lost his life in Iraq earlier this year. The Kamehameha Schools graduate was among 2,200 soldiers in Hawaii's 29th Infantry Brigade deployed to Iraq. Afterward a ceremonial presentation was performed by Pa Ku'i A Holo. Donned in traditional malo and lei, the group chanted and performed rituals to honor Nainoa Hoe as well as all the other Hawaiian warriors.

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Brigadier General Irwin Cockett Jr. paid homage to the veterans who have defended America, especially to those who have called Hawaii their home. “Nainoa responded to the call of duty,” Cockett said. “He made the greatest sacrifice for his country.”

“This is a fitting day to honor the Hawaiian warriors and all warriors,” said Lt. General John Brown. “Today is the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. We should be proud of all the men and women who gave their lives for their country.”

CNHA’s CEO & President Robin Danner summed up the luncheon, showing how cultural heritage and patriotism can work together: “It is not at all a struggle for us to balance love of our country and the kuleana of cultural heritage – it is not an either-or proposition but rather an additional responsibility born from an inherent connection to our homeland.”

CNHA is a national, member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides support services to organizations serving native communities. CNHA’s primary expertise is in community development, technical assistance and training, public policy initiatives, and the coordination of events and conferences focused on native community development issues. For more information on CNHA call 521.5011 (800.709.2642 toll free) or visit www.hawaiiancouncil.org.

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