



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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CNHA REACTS TO 9TH CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN ARAKAKI V. LINGLE

Honolulu, HI - The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in the Arakaki v. Lingle case. “Although we haven’t read the decision closely, we are enthused that the court affirmed the dismissal of all claims related to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and OHA’s administration of the 5(f) revenues,” says Robin Danner, President and CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. “This case highlights the absolute need for passage of the Akaka Bill this year. Congress must clarify that our relationship with this great nation is a political one.”

“The Akaka Bill is vital to the survival of the Native Hawaiian people, and the perpetuation of the culture of Hawaii,” says Jade Danner, Vice President, Information and Government Affairs. “It represents an important measure of justice for Native Hawaiians – justice which is a critical component to the aloha spirit that prevails in this state.”

“As homesteaders, today’s decision is a victory and reaffirms in our mind this nation’s commitment to recognize that Native Hawaiians are indigenous to these islands,” says Tony Sang, Chairman of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA), representing 25 Hawaiian Home Land communities throughout the state. “More than ever, this case demonstrates the need for Congress to pass S. 147 to provide clarity for everyone about America’s policy on its first peoples.”

“We must not waiver in our support for the Akaka Bill. The bill’s opposition is always trying to paint its outcomes as the most extreme picture. The truth is, most Native Hawaiians want a process to work with their non-Hawaiian neighbors to find what is just and right, and that’s the future the Akaka Bill provides,” says Blossom Feiteira, President, Hui Kako‘o ‘Aina Ho‘opulapula. “There is much more work to be done.”

SCHHA, Hui Kako‘o ‘Aina Ho‘opulapula and the I Mua Group make up CNHA’s Public Policy Advisory Committee.

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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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