



## ***Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement***

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### **STATEWIDE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED ON FEDERAL GOVERNING SYSTEMS**

Honolulu, Hawaii – More than 300 community members from across the state participated in workshops presented by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), entitled *Government 101: National Policies for Native Needs*. Nine presentations were conducted statewide on the first of several segments planned by CNHA under a contract by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). The *Government 101* segment focused on how legislation is introduced and acted upon by the Congress, as well as an overview of the three branches of the federal government. Each participant received a manual with detailed information on the federal legislative process, contact information for Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and the full text of the United States Constitution.

“Interest is very high around the state,” said Lilia Kapunia, CNHA Vice President. “These workshops are intended to increase the access and participation of communities with our federal government. For economic development, social, health and educational programming, the more our communities understand how federal policies and legislation is developed, the more practitioners working directly in communities can help improve those policies and programs.”

DHHL requested competitive bids to deliver public policy education statewide through June 2005. DHHL is a state agency mandated to administer the federal Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. Recognizing the broader significance of the federal relationship with Native Hawaiians in areas such as health, education and economic development, DHHL solicited services for its Public Policy Project to support the capacity of individuals and community-based groups to participate in federal policies that affect them and the entire state.

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The *National Policies for Native Needs* workshop series will cover topics beyond the first *Government 101* segment to include the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, the Native Hawaiian Education Act and other federal legislation regarding Native Hawaiians.

“Native Hawaiians and every resident of the state of Hawaii should have more opportunities to understand the importance of the federal relationship and partnership in addressing social and educational programming,” remarked Darrell Yagodich, Planning Director for DHHL. “We are glad to be sponsoring the *National Policies for Native Needs* series to help inform our beneficiaries on the importance of the HHCA, but also the importance in participating in the broader issues impacted by public policy making, voting and the use of valuable federal resources.”

CNHA develops and delivers workshop materials with its Public Policy Project Advisory Committee members that include DHHL, the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations and Hui Kako`o `Aina Ho`opulapula. CNHA is a national, member-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community development in Native communities. For more information, please call CNHA at 808.521.5011 (toll free at 808.709.2642) or visit [www.hawaiiancouncil.org](http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org).

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