



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

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NATIVE HAWAIIANS DETERMINED TO COUNT IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i-** On Friday, September 3, 2004, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) will host a luncheon entitled - *Native Votes Count* focused on optimizing the voting power of Native Hawaiians. The Native Votes Luncheon is part of CNHA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Native Hawaiian Conference being held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village from August 31 – September 3, 2004.

"As Native Hawaiians, we must take the initiative to empower ourselves by participating in the voting process" said Brandi Lau, CNHA Vice President. "Elected officials are important components of advancing community development policy and we want to encourage our community to engage in this important arena as an electorate and also through serving in public office".

The luncheon will emphasize voter education, voter registration and the importance of public service, with Senator Daniel Inouye and Congressman Abercrombie delivering keynote messages. Members of the Native Hawaiian caucus at the state legislature will be recognized and a call to public service will be made throughout the Native Hawaiian community.

"In an era of close political races and increasingly important public policy decisions that impact our children and the health of our communities, it is clear that every vote counts in Hawaii" Lau continued. "Native Hawaiians are 20% of our state's population and our issues should be important to candidates, regardless of their party affiliation."

On a national level, while Native Hawaiians comprise a relatively small portion of the total U.S. population, a united native constituency across the country will influence how the issues of health, education, affordable housing, cultural preservation, and self-determination will ultimately be handled by the State and Federal Governments.

Conference participants will also hear from Oahu Mayoral candidates Duke Bainum and Mufi Hannemann at a luncheon scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2004.

CNHA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Native Hawaiian Conference is one of the largest annual gatherings focused on Native Hawaiian community development.

For more information, please contact the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement at 808.521.5011 or at [conf@hawaiiancouncil.org](mailto:conf@hawaiiancouncil.org). Additional details about conference workshops, speakers, and activities can be found at [www.hawaiiancouncil.org](http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org).