



Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

33 South King Street, Suite 513 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: 808.521.5011 . Fax: 808.521.4111

Website: <http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org>

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2004

Contact:

Rhonda Funn at 521-5011

Fax: (808) 521-4111

rhonda@hawaiiancouncil.org

MAYORAL CANDIDATES RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIVE VOTE

Honolulu, Hawai'i - Leading candidates for Honolulu Mayor, Duke Bainum and Mufi Hannemann will address Native Hawaiian issues next week at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's 3rd Annual Native Hawaiian Conference on Thursday, September 2, 2004 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

"This is a chance for our public officials to reach out to our community and for our community to engage in public policy. We all need to do our part to bridge the gap and ensure that we communicate our needs to our representatives and that they fulfill their obligation to be held accountable for their actions," said Brandi Lau, Vice President and Conference Director.

Guided by the conference theme, Empowered for the Future, the luncheon is one way Native Hawaiians can empower themselves and make informed decisions. With recent events directly challenging Native Hawaiian rights and policies being developed impacting Federal Recognition, economic self-determination, and lease to fee conversion, this program will help shape how Native Hawaiians will cast their vote in the City & County of Honolulu Mayoral race, Lau said.

Momentum will be maintained from Thursday's event at the Native Votes Luncheon on Friday, September 3, 2004, featuring keynote speakers Senator Daniel Inouye and Congressman Neil Abercrombie. Conference participants will have an opportunity to register to vote and celebrate the power of voting as a single constituency.

The public is invited and luncheon tickets are available for \$35 per person based on availability.

CNHA's 3rd Annual Native Hawaiian Conference is one of the largest annual gatherings focused on Native Hawaiian community development. For more information, please call 808.521.5011 or visit

www.hawaiiancouncil.org.