



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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1,000 LETTERS DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE

Honolulu, Hawaii - The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) delivered to the Governor's Office over five inches of bound letters representing over 1,000 letters from individuals supporting Federal Recognition for Native Hawaiians.

"In a short 60 days, our office received a thousand letters from people living in 12 different states from around the country," said Jade Danner, CNHA Vice President. "And still more are arriving, which we will be sure to deliver to Governor Lingle and the Hawaii Congressional Delegation."

CNHA operates a Public Policy Center, conducting legislative briefings, community consultation on a variety of public policy issues and distribution of information and updates on legislation impacting Native Hawaiian community development. The letters began arriving after several informational events were held on the mainland and CNHA concluded its 4th Annual Native Hawaiian Conference in Waikiki in early September.

"Individuals from every walk of life, submitted letters of support," Danner remarked. "Residents of Arizona, Colorado, Texas, and many more states took the time to write in to their Congressional policy makers -- we're happy to pass them onto Governor Lingle."

CNHA applauded the work of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, Kamehameha Schools Alumni Associations in California and several chapters of Hawaiian Civic Clubs that have worked to inform their communities and members about the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005 sponsored by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka. Danner said the support is clear and people understand the importance of having our federal government, once and for all clarify that Hawaiians are Indigenous to Hawaii, beyond a racial classification, just as American Indians and Alaska Natives are Indigenous to their homelands located in more than 30 other states across the country.

CNHA is a national, member-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community development in Native communities. Operating a Public Policy Center, CNHA conducts educational workshops on federal legislation of interest to Native communities in the areas of healthcare, education, affordable housing, cultural preservation and economic development. For more information, please contact CNHA via telephone at 808.521.5011 or toll free at 808.709.2642, via e-mail at info@hawaiiancouncil.org or visit our website at www.hawaiiancouncil.org.

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