



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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CNHA PUBLIC POLICY CENTER PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE MAINLAND

Honolulu, Hawaii – The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) participated in events held in Nevada and California, during the months of August and September, to provide information on the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, S. 147, also known as the Akaka Bill. More than 1,000 individuals picked up materials on the bill which is awaiting action by the United States Senate.

“People are very interested in seeing and understanding the bill,” said Lisa C. Oshiro, Senior Policy Analyst at CNHA’s Public Policy Center. “CNHA has developed and distributed thousands of copies of a Desktop Reference Guide that includes a full copy of the bill and relevant material on the federal self-determination policy for America’s Native peoples.”

CNHA provided information at the SCHHA Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, the E Hula Mau Hula Competition in Long Beach, California, and the Pacific Islander Festival in San Diego, California. These events attract large numbers of Native Hawaiians as well as non-Hawaiians who support the Native Hawaiian community and the preservation and perpetuation of the Native Hawaiian language, culture and way of life. Almost 300 people expressed their support for the Akaka Bill at the E Hula Mau event alone.

CNHA launched its Public Policy Center in 2005 to develop educational materials on a variety of federal legislation important to Native Hawaiians. In addition to the Akaka Bill, Desktop Reference Guides are available on the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Public Policy Center is currently working on guides to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, which provides funding for affordable housing programming, as well as the Native Hawaiian Healthcare Improvement Act, addressing healthcare challenges.

Federal recognition for Native Hawaiians similar to Indian Tribes has been discussed and reviewed in the community, local government and in the halls of Congress for 6 years. “The reaffirmation of Native Hawaiians as indigenous to the 50th state is powerfully important, not just to Hawaiians, but also to our state and the country,” remarked Jade Danner, CNHA Vice President of Community Development. “There is no question that federal recognition of Native peoples has

resulted in progress made in the preservation of language, culture and the sharing of some of the best ideas of our nation's first peoples.”

CNHA is a national, member-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community development in Native communities. Operating a Public Policy Program, 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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