

ACHIEVING NATIVE HAWAIIAN SELF-GOVERNANCE

For generations, groups and individuals have worked to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians. We have a unique, historic opportunity now to join together to form a government that can act on our collective behalf to accomplish even more for generations to come.

Background

- On February 26, 2016, **participants of the 'Aha voted 88-30-1 in favor of a Constitution** for the modern lāhui. Their work is a major milestone in expanding Native Hawaiian rights.
- It is the result of the efforts of very diverse group of Native Hawaiians who worked from a shared foundation of aloha to propose a Constitution for our lāhui.
- The Constitution requires ratification by a majority of Native Hawaiians who participate in an election before it becomes valid.

What is the Value of Establishing a Native Hawaiian Government?

- A Hawaiian government is the best way to ensure that Native Hawaiian rights are asserted and protected.
 - Our own government will allow us greater progress on issues that we have found difficult to achieve as a lāhui through the state or federal governments, from establishing our own Native Hawaiian education system to supporting a hiring preference for Native Hawaiians
 - We can secure land through our government and establish the rules that apply on those lands.
- Affirming our political bonds by forming a government helps to provide better protection from lawsuits seeking to
- eliminate Native Hawaiian programs. There have been over 200 legal challenges to date since *Rice v. Cayetano* (2000).

What are the Next Steps?

- **An election** to determine if the Constitution created from the 'Aha will be ratified (approved) by the Native Hawaiian people is the next step. If ratified, the Constitution provides for a number of elected offices which create a Native Hawaiian government.
- **Register** your 'ohana and friends to participate in the ratification election through the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission or OHA's Hawaiian Registry Program.
- **Commit to vote** to ratify the Constitution and help others do the same.
- **Help educate and reach out** through your networks and other resources.
- **Help to raise \$2 million dollars in private support.** Judicial Watch and others will likely continue to challenge the constitutionality of Native Hawaiian self-governance as long as public trust funds are used to support the reorganization process. **Use of private resources help to minimize these threats.**

How to Help with Fundraising

- **A Tides Collective Action Fund** has been established to support efforts towards Native Hawaiian self-governance. Anyone, from individuals to large organizations can contribute, and help to secure matching funds as well! Beginning March 14, 2016, tax-deductible donations can be made at www.AlohaLahui.com.
- Founded in 1976, **Tides** is a non-profit organization, foundation and social enterprise for social change headquartered in San Francisco, CA. Tides was instrumental in helping to support early efforts of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the defense of Pele and Wao Kele o Puna against geothermal development.