



About the Policy Center

CNHA consults its member nonprofit executives, homestead leaders, civic advocates and small business owners to bring a full and rich dialogue to the work of effective policy development and advocacy.

Policy Partners

The policy center work is framed by the experiences of more than 150 CNHA organizational members in the nonprofit and private sectors as well as our national advocacy colleagues.

Core Values

Excellence
Integrity
Collaboration
Responsibility
Old & New Knowledge

Native Hawaiian Policy Center

2014-2015 Policy Priorities

CNHA produces its annual policy priorities based on input from its member organizations and community leaders throughout the year.

Local Policy Priorities - OHA & DHHL State Agencies

- 1. OHA/DHHL - Agricultural & Pastoral Homesteading (2009):** Establish an Agricultural and Pastoral Homesteading program with technical resources, loan funds and dedicated grants.
- 2. OHA/DHHL - Operating Budgets (2012):** Strengthen Beneficiary Consultation on trust resources and budgetary processes to increase transparency of trust fund expenditures and increase beneficiary recommendations in agency budgets.
- 3. OHA/DHHL - Ceded Lands Settlement Resolution (2012):** Execute programs to fulfill the OHA/DHHL resolution on the Ceded Lands Settlement to serve the mutual beneficiaries of these public trusts in homesteading and advancing the purposes of the HHCA.
- 4. OHA/DHHL - Legal Counsel (2012):** Hawaiian Homes Commission to fund and retain separate legal counsel to represent the interests of the beneficiaries at all Hawaiian Homes Commission meetings.
- 5. OHA - NGO Access to State of Hawaii CIP Resources (2013):** Develop a training guide to accessing State CIP resources for Non-Governmental Organizations, and directly assist community leaders to present CIP eligible projects through the State of Hawaii governmental system.
- 6. DHHL - Foreclosure Prevention on Hawaiian Homes (2013):** Protect beneficiaries through a moratorium on lease cancellations until the State adopts written collection policies that include the priorities of Act 48, mandates 3rd party mediators that are HUD certified and includes access to foreclosure prevention best practices available to all other citizens.
- 7. OHA/DHHL - Fund Beneficiary Water Defense Project (2013):** Support beneficiary collaborative project to educate and exercise water rights.
- 8. OHA/DHHL - Next Generation Leadership (2013):** Support and dedicate resources to leadership development of next generation (age 18-38)
- 9. DHHL - Housing Partnerships & Self Determination (2013)(2014):** Partner with beneficiary NGOs to develop affordable housing with leveraged trust funds to gain efficiencies and meet the expectations of NAHASDA. (prioritize affordable rental housing and self-help programs)
- 10. DHHL/OHA - Leverage Loan Funds (2014):** Provide match funds to Native CDFI's that secure loan capital and/or technical assistance funds that meet the needs of HHCA beneficiaries or OHA strategic priorities.
- 11. OHA - Kanaiolowalu (2013)(2014):** Fully fund the completion of Act 195, and pursue next steps of electing delegates from Roll, holding a constitutional convention and ratifying governing documents and election of Native Government officials through a community based consortium made up of Native Hawaiian membership organizations. Provide funding support for a constitutional symposium to support nation building.
- 12. DHHL - Equity Loans (2014) -** Establish a loan product that allows second mortgages on homestead properties.

Note: The year the item became a policy priority is noted in parentheses

State & Federal Policy Priorities

- 1. State/Federal - Sovereignty: State (2011) & Federal Recognition (2002):** Support the implementation of State recognition law and work to extend the federal policy of self-governance and self-determination to Native Hawaiians.
- 2. Federal - Business: SBA Native 8(a) Business Development (2008):** Passage of federal legislation to distinguish Native 8(a) firms versus Minority 8(a) firms in the SBA program, and to reaffirm the origins of Native 8(a) under the federal Indian policy and the Native status in the U.S. Constitution.
- 3. Federal - Financing: FHA 247 Amendments (2006) & HUD 184a Amendments (2011):** Engage a new HUD MOU on FHA 247 by the Obama Administration to reverse 75% LTV ratio limitation on beneficiary borrowers. Address mediation necessity and remove need to qualify with existing debt. Amend HUD 184a home loan program to allow refinancing, and home transactions off trust lands, as American Indians and Alaska Natives are allowed.
- 4. State - Donor Giving: Employee Choice in State of Hawaii Work Place Giving (2008):** Revise 35-year policy by state government to restrict state employees to a single charity giving option of an Oahu nonprofit, to open opportunities to charities across the state, and in particular to culturally based charities.
- 5. Federal - Federal Program Unity Project (2010, 2012, 2013):** Identify successful federal programs that are relevant to Native Hawaiians for inclusion based on Native status, and re-authorize Indian/Hawaiian federal programs. Include SUTA to be a standard eligibility definition for various federal programs, with a set-aside for SUTA projects using LITC & NMTC to increase eligibility of Native populations nationally. Provide exemptions to Tribal/Native telecommunication firms working on trust lands under new FCC programs.
- 6. Federal - DoI Oversight of HHCA (2011, 2012):** Promulgation of federal administrative rules by the Department of Interior for the HHCA and the Hawaiian Home Land Recovery Act (HHLRA). Establish direct relationships between HHCA beneficiaries and DoI officials to share experiences and best practices of DoI-Insular Affairs, DoI-Bureau of Indian Affairs and DoI-Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, and implement improved active oversight of State of Hawaii.
- 7. State/Federal - Education Policy (2013):** Improve Early Education Preschool Act to include consultation with Hawaiians, fund the 2-state language reality, has a family component and embraces diverse delivery systems. Provide parity to charter schools with public DoE schools. Reauthorize federal Native Hawaiian Education Act and strengthen NH control.
- 8. Federal - Kalaupapa Cooperative Agreement (2013):** Execute a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the NGO representing the families and patients of Kalaupapa.
- 9. Federal - HHCA Amendments by Congress (2013):** Conduct Beneficiary Consultation with homestead and waitlist beneficiaries to discuss an amendment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to address eligibility and stability of homestead beneficiaries, including blood quantum, how to address conflicts of interests of state versus beneficiary interests, and strengthening the self-determination of beneficiary organizations cited in the HHCA.
- 10. Federal - Native CDFI Eligibility (2013)(2014):** Strengthen criteria of organizations eligible to compete for Native American CDFI grant funds at the U.S. Treasury **reverse the match fund requirement for emerging and Native CDFI's.**
- 11. State - Native Arts & Culture (2014):** Increase NH Art representation in the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and Arts Collection from 2% to 25%. Require NH representative on the Board of Commissioners.
- 12. Federal - Census Data (2014):** Improve upon data disaggregation practices from the 2010 census for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
- 13. State - Native Hawaiian Education (2014):** Develop appropriate levels of funding for Office of Hawaiian Education Office and proper pay for dual certification of Hawaiian & English teachers.

Program Priority from CNHA Network

Native & Tribal Leader Roundtables (2013): Coordinate and host leader-to-leader roundtables to share policy priorities and best practices in economic development, education, health, etc. Work to support a national Native to Native Trades Bill.

No Vote No Grumble Coalition (2014): **Increase participation by CBO's to support a statewide field plan around civic engagement that includes voter registration, GOTV efforts, voter education, and training.**