

1 Public Meeting regarding whether the Federal  
2 Government should reestablish a  
3 government-to-government relationship with the  
4 Native Hawaiian community

5  
6 PUBLIC MEETING

7  
8 LANAI SENIOR CENTER  
9 309 Seventh Street  
10 Lanai City, Hawaii 96763

11  
12 June 27, 2014

13 6:00 p.m.

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18 Moderator: DAWN CHANG

19  
20 Recorded and Transcribed by:

21 KATHRYN PLIZGA, RPR, Hawaii CSR No. 497  
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1 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PANELISTS:

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3 and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior

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10 U.S. Department of the Interior

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## P U B L I C M E E T I N G

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MS. CHANG: With that, I would like to thank the panel that's kind of given you an introduction to the advance notice of proposed rule making. Again, this is really trying to give you some information. Take the material home. We welcome the comments tonight. But you are free to take those comments you saw and talk story with your family, with your community, and complete those comment forms.

You're not confined to only making a comment tonight, that's not your only comment. You can make many comments; submit it in writing as well as provide it orally.

So with that, in order to ensure that we get everybody's comments, because that's really the focus of tonight's meeting, I want to just go over some -- what I just call -- kind of protocols on your comments.

I have a court reporter here, her name is Kathryn, and she can only take one person talking at a time. So I would ask that when you come up, come up to the mike. If you can state your name for Kathryn, and if you can spell it, because half the time I'm not giving justice to your names.

1           So if you can, state your name. And then if  
2 you want to provide your comments in Hawaiian, please  
3 feel free to do so. I apologize that we do not have  
4 a translator here tonight. But if you ask, we will  
5 take the audio and we will have a translation. There  
6 have been many throughout these last couple of days  
7 that have given their testimony in Hawaiian. And it  
8 was their demonstration of their commitment to what  
9 does it mean to be Hawaiian. For them, they felt  
10 very comfortable doing that.

11           So again, if you want to do it in Hawaiian,  
12 please feel free to do so. If you are uncomfortable  
13 with giving oral testimony, because I know sometimes  
14 it is hard to come up to a mike and talk to  
15 everybody, that's all right. Again, take home a  
16 comment form. There are many other ways to provide  
17 comments. Tonight is not your last meeting. Again,  
18 we're having 15 meetings.

19           We had a wonderful -- we got to know -- on  
20 Oahu we did five meetings. We had a nice following  
21 that followed us from the capital to Waimanalo all  
22 the way to Makakilo. So please feel free, if you're  
23 going to be on any of the other islands, come and  
24 join us.

25           In the back we have a press release that

1 tells you all the dates of those meetings.

2           Again, in order to be consistent with all of  
3 our meetings -- and I apologize and I hope not to  
4 offend anyone -- but we're limiting to two minutes.  
5 So I have Lorinda here who's got a card. She will  
6 put it up when there's one minute, and then show 30  
7 seconds.

8           And this is kind of just my style because I  
9 want this to be as unoffensive in your space. If you  
10 see me getting close to you, that probably means your  
11 time is kind of wrapping up. If you see me putting  
12 my -- gently touching you -- that means your time is  
13 pau. So if you wouldn't mind -- because what is  
14 happening -- when people run over time, they're  
15 taking from somebody else. And I know two minutes is  
16 not enough. But I would greatly appreciate that, if  
17 we could respect that time.

18           If there is time after that, and we pau with  
19 the questions and you want to provide another  
20 comment, we are going to welcome that. But we're  
21 going to try to get through everybody first.

22           The other thing that we did is, again, we  
23 had a great following that came to us, to all the  
24 different meetings and they wanted to speak. But we  
25 had community members in that particular community

1 who said, you know, we would appreciate if that  
2 community has an opportunity to speak when they  
3 haven't.

4 So, what we have been doing is, as we've  
5 gone around, if you have spoken before, we would ask  
6 that you permit those who have not spoken to be given  
7 a chance to speak first.

8 So I am now saying that to all the  
9 communities, so that we honor and respect those  
10 communities that we're in.

11 And again, we want to hear your comments.  
12 So I would ask that you not yield your time or waive  
13 your time to somebody else, but you take your two  
14 minutes. I know that tonight's meeting -- this is a  
15 very important issue -- so again, I would just ask  
16 that there be courtesies to one another.

17 The way that I am going to do this is people  
18 signed up -- so if you didn't sign, please sign up --  
19 as I am going to take the names from the sign-up  
20 sheet. I will take them in the order that they've  
21 been called. I'll probably call five names. And if  
22 your name is called, please come up so that I can  
23 call you to the mike.

24 And with that, let's see. The first person  
25 who has signed up is Keith Aoki, Julieann Mock Chew.

1 After Julieann, then I have Mark Mano. And then  
2 after that, I have Roselani Kahakanu.

3 So the first person I have is Keith Aoki.  
4 After Keith, Julieann.

5 MS. KAHAKANU: I can sing better than I can  
6 talk.

7 MS. CHANG: You can sing for us.

8 MS. KAHAKANU: Thank you, first of all, for  
9 coming. And I am not one to be mean because my tutu  
10 always teaches me to be humble. My tutu was  
11 (inaudible) and my grandfather was (inaudible.)  
12 I thank you guys for taking the time and for coming.

13 But, you know, I just kind of pondered one  
14 day over the thought that we were annexed illegally.  
15 And it really hurt my heart because I'm 50-some what  
16 years old, I never really understood what was  
17 happening. And I feel like I pledged to the flag all  
18 the days of my youth and my life.

19 And the United States -- I'm so glad it was  
20 the United States and not Japan or not any other  
21 country -- but I feel like I never had a choice. And  
22 so my answer to those five questions would be no.

23 I think if we had a choice and given the  
24 opportunity, we'd be so amazed on what we could do as  
25 a people. Because we have the spirit in us, we have

1 the love, we have the humility and we can do all  
2 things through Christ who strengthens us.

3 I am so emotional right now. Okay, next  
4 person. Thank you very much.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. CHANG: The next person I have is Matt  
7 Mano and then Roselani.

8 MR. MANO: Aloha. You guys all know me, I  
9 have been a resident here since the day I was born.  
10 The day my head would stick out of my mother's womb,  
11 I was a Hawaiian. Okay?

12 An opportunity for background, I'm sorry, I  
13 don't want to go through any background. We know  
14 wrongdoing was done. We know that in our hearts. We  
15 know that in 1993, that there was an apology letter.  
16 That tells us it was wrong automatically. So we know  
17 that our queen was illegally overthrown. We also  
18 know that the no treaty, no annexation, that was  
19 already wrong. Through international law, that's  
20 illegal if we do go through international law.

21 My fears for the Hawaiian is if you go to  
22 the other side, through international law, you guys  
23 will be guilty of a war crime if this ever goes  
24 through. And that's the biggest issue.

25 But, long story short, for the five



1 questions that you guys have asked, with respect, my  
2 answer is no. I have five children, 15  
3 grandchildren. I protect my family alone.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. CHANG: Next I have Roselani, and then  
6 after Roselani I have Winnie Basque.

7 MS. KAHAKANU: Aloha. Aloha to all my  
8 friends and neighbors that have come tonight. I  
9 mahalo you for that.

10 I would like to -- with regard to the  
11 questions -- question one, should the secretary  
12 propose an administrative rule that would facilitate  
13 the reestablishment of a government-to-government  
14 relationship with the native community, I would like  
15 clarification on the word, reestablishment.

16 Because as far as I know, the relationship  
17 that we -- that Hawaii had with the United States  
18 was -- resulted in the illegal removal of our  
19 government and queen and the imprisonment of our  
20 queen and the stirring of the nahal of multiple  
21 generations of our people.

22 It was a great identity theft which  
23 continues. The efforts to denationalize us as  
24 Hawaiians and to morph us into something that we are  
25 not -- which are Americans -- we were never -- Hawaii

1 is not America. America is not Hawaii. There is no  
2 treaty of annexation.

3 And with the success of the protests of our  
4 kapuna in 1898, there could be no annexation, which  
5 is the only way that you can lawfully acquire a  
6 foreign country. Which we are to the United States,  
7 a foreign country.

8 And so, my answer to questions one through  
9 five and six through 19 is aole, aole, aole, aole.  
10 And in the words of James Kaulia, who was the  
11 president of the Hui Aloha Aina, who organized those  
12 protest petitions of our kapuna in 1897 and '98, I  
13 remind all of our people that we must protest forever  
14 the annexation of Hawaii, of our country, our  
15 sovereign, neutral independent peace-loving country  
16 to the United States. Until the very last aloha aina  
17 patriot, the Hawaiian patriot, aloha aina, and to the  
18 very last one. Mahalo.

19 MS. CHANG: Auntie Winnie is the last person  
20 that said yes. So after that, if there's anybody  
21 else who wants to come up -- oh -- we got time out.  
22 Aunty Winnie.

23 MS. BASQUES: Good evening. Aloha. Anybody  
24 can hear me? Do I need the microphone? Okay, fine.

25 I just came back from Honolulu. I am angry

1 for the Native Hawaiian History Council. And the  
2 thing is that when you look at this kind of issue  
3 that goes on in the community, I think about her,  
4 her. She was a Christian woman. She did not believe  
5 in annexation, it was dethroned by her. It took away  
6 all her dignity.

7 And the thing is that, look what is going on  
8 with our people now. If we come to agreement, I  
9 would like to see a moratorium agreement with you  
10 folks and the native Hawaiians in black and white.  
11 And I would like to see one period investigation on  
12 this. I am talking about her. She was dethroned.  
13 They took away her privileges. She was imprisoned  
14 for eight years in the Iolani Palace. How does that  
15 folks make you feel?

16 It saddens me. And did you know, this is  
17 what she wrote. I am not going to read it. If you  
18 want to go look at it, go to the library and read the  
19 book. Now, these words are coming up on this paper  
20 here, is all man-made law. Okay?

21 The next one is this. This is what it's all  
22 about. Okay? This is the Bible, which nobody can  
23 touch, nobody can remove or put in words because this  
24 Bible was written by the hand of our Lord Jesus  
25 Christ. Okay, now, we can tell whoever it is they

1 sent you here, Obama, John Carey -- oh, yeah by the  
2 way, how is Elizabeth Taylor? He was married to her.

3 Okay. My question is, how can you find a  
4 definition for the native Hawaiian custom and the  
5 international law. This is all western. We cannot  
6 follow the path as Hawaii. We were brought up to  
7 say, homa na lui, keep it in here. But when it comes  
8 out, look out, because it would come out and would  
9 spread to everybody. The thing is that the Man up  
10 there is watching everybody, everyone. He doesn't  
11 sleep. He's up 24/7.

12 And thank you very much, Dawn.

13 Dawn and I go way back. Thank you very much  
14 again for listening to me. My name is Winifred  
15 Basques. W-I-N-I-F-R-E-D B-A-S-Q-U-E-S.

16 Mahalo. Thank you very much.

17 MS. CHANG: I have Henry French.

18 MR. FRENCH: Aloha, Kakou. Mahalo for you  
19 guys. I don't come from this island, I come from  
20 Molokai. I was here with some family and I got to  
21 come attend this one. So, I am not here dressed for  
22 this. I never do. I want Hawaiian citizen. I need  
23 to believe what is real.

24 What is real is never had one annexation.  
25 So, therefore, our kingdom still and has always been

1 existing. These guys see multiple groups, but we are  
2 not multiple groups. As political parties, like any  
3 government get, there's multiple parties. What I  
4 like come here today and share with you guys is, one  
5 thing I like you guys to remember is every person is  
6 sovereign. I myself am like air breathing, water  
7 drinking, living sovereign human being. And only I  
8 can give my sovereignty to anyone.

9           No other kamaka can give away my  
10 sovereignty, that's only for me to give like any  
11 other person in the world. If you like to be part of  
12 another government, you have that free choice to sign  
13 up.

14           As for these conspirators here, their only  
15 purpose here should be to deal with who they have a  
16 connection to, the state of Hawaii, this -- what you  
17 call -- defacto government that they created.  
18 Because they do not own the land here. Hawaiians own  
19 them and we don't give them the right to give them  
20 away. This aina is our brother, the kalo is our  
21 brother, pohaku is our brother. We got to take care  
22 our family.

23           Thank you guys for letting me speak and I  
24 hope we can remove the de facto government. Mahalo.

25           (Applause)

1 MS. CHANG: Mahalo to the people of Lanai.  
2 Does anybody else want to make a comment that hasn't  
3 made a comment? I would tell you, we've never been  
4 in a situation like this. We always had more  
5 comments than we had time.

6 So, what I would like to do is what I said  
7 at the beginning, we've been having questions. So  
8 does anybody here want to ask a question about what  
9 you heard from the presentation?

10 And this part, I'm sorry, is not part of the  
11 official record.

12 (The public hearing portion was concluded.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF HAWAII )

3 ) ss.

4 CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU )

5 I, KATHRYN PLIZGA, Notary Public, State of  
6 Hawaii, do hereby certify:

7 That on June 27, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. the  
8 Public Meeting regarding whether the Federal  
9 Government should reestablish a government-to-  
10 government relationship with the Native Hawaiian  
11 community, was taken down by me in machine shorthand  
12 and was thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
13 supervision;

14 That the foregoing represents, to the best  
15 of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the  
16 proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

17 I further certify that I am not an attorney  
18 for any of the parties hereto, nor in any way  
19 concerned with the cause.

20 This 14-page transcript dated June 27, 2014,  
21 was subscribed and sworn to before me this  
22 \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2014, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHRYN PLIZGA, RPR, Hawaii CSR 497