

Native Hawaiian Coalition
Moku Aina
Kona Meeting Report
July 27, 2005

The general meeting of the Native Hawaiian Coalition, Kona Moku, was held at the Community Christ Church, 1666 Mott-Smith Drive. Umialiloa Sexton, Kona District Representative presided.

Opening - The meeting opened at 6:23 p.m. with Jojo Tanemoto offering the opening prayer at which time everyone was invited to help themselves to dinner while the meeting progressed.

Announcements

1. Next NHC Kona Moku meeting August 24, 2005, same location 6:00 p.m.
2. Criteria for the Organizational Structure and officers are being developed and will be shared by Kaleo Patterson.
3. Kaleo Patterson sent an e-mail to all Moku representatives in regards to the nominations process and criteria for officers. Officers nominated had to have attended at least 4 general Coalition meetings. Nomination forms will be mailed out to all NHC members who have registered at either a General Coalition meeting or a Moku meeting. Nomination forms will be sent out on August 1 and due on August 22nd. At the August 27th general NHC meeting nominees will be presented. Election ballots will be mailed out to all NHC members who have registered to vote.
4. Umi Sexton reminded all in attendance to sign the attendance sheet, as it will be critical during the election phase.
5. The recorder, Kau'i Torres, asked all to come up to the microphone to speak as some of them were inaudible.

Nomination Process

In the absence of Kaleo Paterson, Umialiloa Sexton attempted to explain the proposed nomination process, which he received by e-mail from Kaleo Patterson. He explained that the general coalition meeting attendees were in agreement that Kaleo Patterson would continue as the Coalition Chair so he took it upon himself to established a nominations committee to assist him in producing a nominations and election process for the NHC.

Nalani confirmed Kaleo Patterson's role by sharing that she was in the Organizational Structure committee, which reviewed the code of conduct, where Kaleo Patterson had a right to call anyone he wanted to help in the election process. She also shared that the issue of the election process was tabled. The dates and time lines were still being reviewed. The Organizational Structure Committee was not finished. There were still issues about the administration and fiscal responsibilities.

Discussion took place in regards to the proposal put out by Kaleo Patterson and his selected committee. Several comments and suggestions were expressed as follows:

- Clarification is needed from Kaleo Patterson. Umi is just the messenger.
- Mr. Rose was opposed to an election by mail out ballot.
- Mr. Milton Ragsdale expressed his disappointment in the Organizations failure to come up with a proper structure given the time they had and felt the structure was flawed.
- Kau`i Torres expressed the fact that the discussion set a tone of discouragement and shared her ideas of what can be discussed instead. The issue of making sure information is shared from each of the Moku and from each Component Committee to the general NHC attendees can also be a topic of discussion. Another topic could be that of making sure that those willing to be nominated have a sufficient profile to submit to the NHC to show their qualifications.
- It was suggested that we discuss electing delegates to send to convention.
- The position of the Chair of the NHC should have knowledge of International and Federal Law. The Chair should also be familiar with the duties of the other officers.
- Nalani shared that we should focus on what to put forth even if we do not agree with the criteria.
- The Chair should be open to all forms of government.
- A question was posed as to whether the Chairperson would be a Moku Chair.
- Mr. Milton Ragsdale shared his criteria for all officers.
- Someone expressed that the Chair should be a well-liked person.
- It was expressed that we need to come to trust people.
- Kau`i Torres shared that she has sat in a chair position using Roberts Rules of Order and expressed the importance of the chair being someone who can maintain order so that the voice of the minority is heard in a fair way and that no one interrupts someone else while they are talking.

Kaleo Paterson arrived and apologized for not getting the election plan out to everyone. He reviewed the plan that was decided upon at the last Coalition meeting. His understanding was that it was his responsibility to come up with a plan. He and his committee decided on a mail out nomination form and ballot with a timeline that would be fair to everyone. He also went to see Clyde Namuu to get the financial support of OHA. He wanted to bring in Moku representatives from the neighbor islands and got financial support from OHA to do so. Some of those on the Nomination/Election committee are Anell Amaral, who was not available, Sharon Pomeroy, Olive Takeyama and Holly Manworth. An attendee of the Kona NHC meeting photocopied the e-mail sent out by Kaleo Patterson for all the attendees and Kaleo Patterson explained his plan to everyone. Clyde Namuu has not responded to the proposal yet. The plan may change depending on what Clyde's decision is. Kaleo Patterson then explained the timeline involved which again generated discussion.

The following comments and suggestions were made from the floor:

- A question was posed as to why are we are waiting for OHA, when the Moku can work on this and would not need to get any other organization involved. We do not have to wait for OHA. This process is costly. How much would it cost to have the Women League of Voters hired to count votes?
- Kaleo Patterson explained that many would be excluded from the vote if we have the election and the meeting on Oahu only. He shared that he went to Kauai where 70 to 80 people were present. The last general NHC meeting had a low attendance. Someone offered to open an office but it would require a lot of set up. Utilizing the League of Women Voters would be fair and it would prevent any suspicion of tampering. He estimated the cost for stamps and postage to be about \$2000.00 and approximately \$2000 to \$3000 for labor.
- There was a suggestion that to be fair to the neighbor islands that each of the Vice Chairs be selected amongst the nominees with the highest votes from the other island.

Kaleo Patterson then clarified the qualifications for voters, which again generated discussion. Comments are as follows:

- The proposal suggests the same process as submitting an absentee ballot.
- It was suggested that we mail out the ballots but have them turned in at the Moku meetings.
- There was a concern that other Moku are not as organized and may not properly inform potential voters.
- It was suggested that the Moku bring in nominations to speed up the elections.
- There was a suggestion to have open nominations at the NHC general meeting from the floor.
- There was a concern about some Moku that have not met.
- Kaleo Patterson reiterated that we need structure and we don't want to put forth a bad structure
- There was a suggestion that we have an election on August 27th.
- It was suggested that the Kona Moku Chair take nominations.
- We need to slow down the election process. Mail out process will work best.
- It is not necessary to have an outside entity involved.
- Kaleo Patterson advised he would check with the other Moku as to what they think.
- It was suggested that we do our own counting of ballots. The ballots can be counted in front of everyone.
- Profiles of the nominees would not be available if the process is rushed.
- It was suggested that the next Kona meeting be Aug 17th.
- It was clarified that there was no consensus in the Kona Moku to have an election on Aug 27
- We need fair representation. The people who walk thru the doors should participate. We need to look at the purpose of the Coalition.

- We finally have a time line. We should respect the timeline in place. We should look at the proposal for the election.
- OHA has a list of members. We should invite them to a nomination meeting for the entire island of Oahu.
- Kaleo Patterson advised that he would have information about moving the elections up to Aug 27th within 10- 12 days.
- Umi advised he would try to move the Kona meeting up to August 17th. All agenda item request should be submitted to Umi.
- Discussion about all officers and representatives will be the focal point of the next Kona Moku meeting.
- Kaleo Patterson advised that the agenda for the next NHC general meeting has not been worked on yet. He will look at the reports from all the Moku meetings and try to answer some of the questions in regards to the proposed Structure.
- Milton Ragsdale volunteered to e-mail the minutes out to everyone.

- Kau`i Torres asked for a volunteer to take minutes at the next Kona Moku meeting as she may not be able to attend.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Submitted By,
Kau`i Torres