

Native Hawaiian Coalition
Moku Aina
Kona Meeting Report
June 22, 2005

The general meeting of the Native Hawaiian Coalition, Kona Moku, was held at the Community Christ Church, 1666 Mott-Smith Drive, on June 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Umialiloa Sexton, the interim representative for the Kona Moku was the facilitator for the evening. An attendance sheet was available for all attendees and a total of 35 attendees signed in.

Opening - The meeting opened at 6:37 p.m. with Umialiloa Sexton offering the opening prayer at which time everyone was invited to help themselves to dinner while the meeting progressed.

A brief explanation was given as to the purpose of the Native Hawaiian Coalition. It was explained that there are two representatives per moku or district. The information and decisions made at each district meeting will be shared with all at the general NHC meeting. All ideas were encouraged. The components of the NHC were explained and all were informed that we would breakout into 6 committees representing each of the components. Education, Enrollment-Registration, Organizational Structure, Community Organizing, Elections and Convention were the components involved.

It was shared that objectives, activities, outcome and timeline will be the focus of the general NHC meeting on Saturday, June 25, and discussion in that direction was encouraged. Mr. Sexton encouraged those who are representing their group to be present at the NHC meeting on Saturday. Each group was asked to choose a spokesperson and a recorder for their group and turn in their group reports to the recorder to be compiled in the Kona Moku NHC report.

Committee Reports

Education: (Lynette Cruz, Lavonne Sexton, Charlie Nakaima, Terri Keko`olani, Glenn Pinho, Jackie Burke, Michael Ortega, Kanoe Cazimero and Sterling Ing)

It was suggested that the minutes of the last NHC meeting be reviewed as it pertained to Education. All were reminded that a matrix had been decided upon by the overall committee and that they should keep in mind the Objectives, Activities, Outcomes/Products and Timelines which had already been achieved at the February 26th meeting of which information could be added to or expanded upon.

A question was posed as to whether or not an assessment had been done on where we (as a people) are in our educational standards.

The committee as a whole agreed upon the following:

- a. The Mission Statement for the Education Component: **“To develop and deliver quality education to the Hawaiians and the larger community on all aspects in building The Hawaiian Nation.”** In so doing the Educational Component Committee will address Process and Content.
- b. To create island committees or “piko” similar to the one on Oahu, to deliver programs consistent within each community that would include educational materials and products.
- c. To develop an educational process that is grounded in our Hawaiian Culture, Values and Spirituality.

- d. To identify collaborative projects and activities.
- e. To define terminologies relative to these models.
- f. To create and maintain a Native Hawaiian Archive of historical information.

Enrollment – Registration: (Dathan Kepilino, Casina Waterman, John Low, Nalani Gersaba and Stanley Aikala)

The report of the February 26th NHC meeting under the Registration component was the bases of discussion for the group. The response to each point is as follows:

Purpose

- 1) Identify the number of Hawaiians.
- 2) Defer to the Education Committee. Have the Education Committee take responsibility for attaching all educational information with the registration forms.
- 3) Defer to the Education Committee.

Outcome

- 1) We recommend quantifying subject to register voters.
- 2) Combine all databases to share information.
- 3) Defer to Organizational and Educational structures.

Starting Points

- 1) Revise the form to add: Inform participants of their options.
- 2) This should be attached to #3 under **Registration Campaign.**
- 3) This should go to Organizational Structure.
- 4) All agreed.
- 5) This should be done for the present registration only.
- 6) All agreed.
- 7) To be deferred to Organizational Structure.

Registration Campaign

- 1) Defer to Community and Education Committees.
- 2) All agreed.
- 3) All agreed.

It was also recommended by the committee that registrars be hired and trained to go door to door on a grassroots level. Funding for moku meetings and advertisement is necessary and should be ongoing.

Organizational Structure: (Charles Rose, Bill Hauoli, Kealii Makekahu, Mahealani Asing, George Hook, Iwalani Spencer, Pat Brandt)

There was frustration about the inability of some to get their ideas heard. All ideas should be heard. Every participant should be heard on any topic and their ideas recorded for use by the convention delegates. There are many similarities in proposals but some key philosophical differences.

NHC is **not** the governmental entity and should not take on a government structure. NHC is a temporary inclusive, neutral body that should not be making endorsements and taking positions. NHC's kuleana is **not** to determine the form our government will take. We recognize there are different degrees of independence but these decisions are for the convention, not the Coalition.

***Note - An additional report was received on June 24, 2005 at 1:40 p.m. by e-mail.**

The following is an organizational structure discussed at the Kona, O'ahu Mokupuni meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2005. It was agreed that we submit this DRAFT for consideration at the Meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at the Sheraton Waikiki. It is desired that this proposal be the genesis of a larger organizational document to help us organize the Native Hawaiian Coalition body and let this structure be the vehicle by which all organizations can feel comfortable with and assured of the Coalitions intent – all of this in hopes of achieving continual, organized action with our work as Hawaiian People creating our future and destiny.

We believe in the Hawaiian People. We believe the Hawaiian People deserve to be given the whole truth about the historical and legal episodes that lead to their current demise. We believe the People deserve the ability to speak up and be heard about what, where, when and how they progress from this point forward. Therefore, every moment and every opinion must be recorded and accepted as this will be their true testimony of what they want to happen for their future as a People.

To aid in the process:

1. A temporary, interim organization, calling itself the Native Hawaiian Coalition, shall be organized for the sole purpose of collating, recording and disseminating all testimonies, treatise, whether written or oral, offered by any individual, ohana or ahahui peoples of Hawaiian ancestry.
2. The Native Hawaiian Coalition will be open to all organizations involved in determining the future of the Hawaiian People shall always be invited to share their mana'o and engage in the process agreed by everyone in the coalition to produce forward moving actions for the benefit of the Hawaiian People.
3. The Native Hawaiian Coalition shall develops its own organizational structure by electing among all participants a President (Chairperson), Vice President (Vice Chair), Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Moku Representatives (12), and any other offices needed to facilitate its work and to bring about productive results of all meetings.
4. The Officers of the Native Hawaiian Coalition shall not have decision making powers on issues concerning the destiny of the Hawaiian People but will be limited to appropriate decisions to promote peaceful and productive policies to achieve its mission to take the Hawaiian People to a National Convention and election of permanent leaders.
5. At no time should this proposed Organizational Structure be confused as a governing or enforcement entity or authority to determine final outcome of the any views expressed through Meetings conducted by the Native Hawaiian Coalition, but the Native Hawaiian Coalition will make available upon request all available transcripts, meetings, data material and total support of the National Convention process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Rose, Chair, Members – Keli'i Mahealani Kuahu Nalani Abeo Pat Brandt Bill Hā'ole
Organization & Structure Committee – Kona, O'ahu Mokupuni

Community Organizing: (Minewa Kaawa, Leinaala Lopez, Hoonui Lopez, William K. Amoana, James Nakapaahu, Kau`i Torres)

A concern was brought up about what the data Kau Inoa has was being used for. It was thought by many that it would be used for providing individuals with information about what was going on in the Hawaiian community. As it is Kau Inoa is now a promoter and funded by OHA. It is a concern that Kau Inoa has such a strong affiliation with OHA. It was shared that the information Kau Inoa has was offered to the Coalition by Mr. Charles Rose and that perhaps we need to take him up on that offer. The slogan “to build a nation” is added to correspondence sent by Kau Inoa. It was expressed that not only does that have nothing to do with the name, Kau Inoa, but also it implies that Kau Inoa has its own agenda as far as “nation building”. The bottom line was that the people deserve to know the truth in regards to Kau Inoa. It is questionable as to whether Kau Inoa will be a valuable tool in reaching the community.

Another concern was that OHA seemed to be above the efforts of the Coalition. As where once it was thought to be the entity in which the Coalition would be funded, it appears now that OHA has taken its own position.

In conclusion the committee was in agreement that the term “Community” would need to be further discussed and defined so that we would know exactly what group of people we would be organizing.

Elections: (Umīaliloa Sexton)

The “*Laws of Kalakaua — Legislative Session 1890, Chapter LXXXVI, An Act, To Amend and Consolidate the Elections Laws of the Kingdom*” was submitted.

Conventions: (Milton Ragsdale)

Resolved: Invite each viable entity to present their documentation and authorities concerning their form of governance for the purpose of coming to an agreement at future conventions.

Each viable entity must be screened so that only serious participants are admitted.

The notes from the last NHC meeting were reviewed and it was noted that they were incomplete.

Questions and Answers/Recommendations

Moku Representative, Umialilola Sexton, shared that he wanted an ad put in the Sunday newspaper announcing the Kona Moku meeting as well as a radio announcement on KCCN but was denied by OHA. He encouraged all in the Kona district to talk to their OHA representative about supporting any future announcements of the Kona district meetings.

All were reminded that one of the most important things we need is to have patience and that we still have the power.

The Organization Structure is important. The Kona moku needs to make it clear that we are just here to gather data. We are not here to organize or set any structure. We are not here to promote any organization.

We have a good turn out but there are other avenues of getting the word out. Those who need to ask questions at the Coalition meeting should take that opportunity at the Coalition meeting.

It was shared that a project called the “Sovereignty Bus” was funded for \$25,000.00. An explanation of what this project is about was shared with all. It is a goal that someday this project has a total of four buses. There would be three here in Hawaii and one on the mainland. The idea is to get information out to the communities as well as any feedback. This project will be presented at the NHC meeting on Saturday.

It was asked whether funding for the Moku meetings have been discussed at the general NHC meeting. It was suggested that we as the Kona Moku discuss this at the NHC meeting.

It was suggested that Kau Inoa’s role be clarified and that whoever is in charge of that organization make that presentation at the next NHC meeting.

A concern was brought up about the Aug 7, 2005 deadline for the Akaka Bill. Information on how that would affect the Coalition should be discussed.

Charley Rose clarified that Kau Inoa is a registration process not an OHA process. It was started as a working group that became the Coalition. OHA provides funding. The Coalition did not want OHA to take the registration forms. It was decided that it would be put in the hands of Kanaka Maoli, which is a 501c3. Kau Inoa is a way to gather information to verify Hawaiian ancestry, which is a complicated process. Hawaii Maoli will be the entity that will verify Hawaiian ancestry. No one has seen the database. It will be released only with the permission of the Coalition. Hawaii Maoli is a repository. It can be used for community organizing. We should be signing everybody up. 20,000 names are registered with Kau Inoa. OHA has gone out to register people. Those registering people are paid \$1.00 for every name.

A question was posed as to whether the database would be automatically given to the present government based on approval of the Native Hawaiian Act?

It was asked whether the Kona Moku would speak as one voice or as individuals at the NHC meeting on Saturday. Umialiloa Sexton advised that both are permitted but that can be further clarified within your perspective groups.

What will the Coalition be on Saturday? Will OHA still exist?

It was clarified that the Coalition does not have anything to do with the Federal Recognition Bill and that Hawaiians do not benefit from anything the Native Americans are entitled to.

It was suggested that we add on as another Component the issue of “continued funding” for all our moku meetings. All were in agreement that we add it on as a component.

It was asked as to whether Umi would remain as the facilitator. His answer was, yes.

Is there someone else who can sit in for Umi if he cannot be here? Yes. It would be Roy Benham.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 935 p.m. with Stanley Aikala offering the closing prayer.

Submitted By,
Kau`i Torres