



News from the Frontline

SOVEREIGNTY:

Native Hawaiians protest proposed legislation

January 19, 1998

▶ HONOLULU (AP) -- The Native Hawaiian Autonomy Act authored by state Rep. Ed Case was criticized Sunday during a Native Hawaiian rally at Iolani Palace which drew about 200 people.

▶ The bill would transfer the responsibilities of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to an entity tentatively called the Native Hawaiian Trust Corp.

▶ "My experience is it's really not an autonomy bill," said Kinau Boyd Kamalii, a former state representative and former OHA trustee. "It's a termination bill. Termination of Native Hawaiian rights, and all of the struggles we have gone through."

▶ Case, chairman of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, said the intent of the bill is exactly the opposite.

▶ The act is designed to have Hawaiians make more decisions for themselves, the Manoa Democrat said.

▶ Opponents also charged the bill was drawn up without input from Hawaiian organizations.

▶ "Here's a non-kanaka maoli, Ed Case, determining our political, economical, social culture," said Kekuni Blaisdell of Kanaka Maoli Tribunal Komike.

▶ Kamalii said Hawaiians may organize protests at the Honolulu airport and in Waikiki.

▶ "Maybe the tourists will listen to us more than the legislators," she said.

New bill may be rejected

▶ HONOLULU (AP) -- A bill that would merge the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands into a new trust corporation is unlikely to gain legislative approval.

- ▶ The bill that Rep. Ed Case plans to introduce is strongly opposed by Native Hawaiian leaders, who say it meddles in sovereignty issues that should be decided by the Hawaiian people.
 - ▶ Case, chairman of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee, says the House will consider the bill.
 - ▶ But even if it is approved by the House, the bill almost certainly will have to clear the Senate Water, Land Use and Hawaiian Affairs Committee. And Sen. Randy Iwase, co-chair of the committee, said the bill is premature.
 - ▶ Iwase said he doubts his committee will spend much time considering the bill because the panel will focus more on economic and land use issues.
 - ▶ He also said that any move to dissolve the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission would abolish the federal government's trust obligation to the Hawaiian people.
-

Autonomy Bill Press Release

- ▶ This press release was given to all the newspapers, the governer, and the legislature.

REP. ED CASE, A "NEW MISSIONARY"

▶ I would like to submit this as an open letter to the Speaker of the House, Mr. Joe Souki and the members of the House of Representatives. The 'Autonomy bill' that will be introduced in the upcoming legislature has all the 'fixings' of a bill, which was introduced in the 1840's called the "Great Mahele". This bill alienated the Native Hawaiians from their land and allowed the missionaries and their families to "acquire" vast land holdings. That Act, eventually set the stage for the 'Illegal Overthrow, Annexation, and Statehood Act.

▶ There are many of you in the house of Representative that are intelligent and can see the implications this bill will have. It does not only try to rewrite a federal mandate enacted in 1920 (The Hawaiian Homes Act.), but distributes the lands while ignoring the intent of the bill. It is an affront to the memory of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, the author of the Hawaiian Homes Act. Prince Kuhio who was a personal friend of my father, admitted that he was very dissatisfied with the outcome of the Bill, because the "Sugar" and Pineapple people lobbied congress to include the worst lands for the act that was unfit for agricultural purposes. Now with Ed Case's bill, its adding insult to injury.

▶ The blood quantum issue is a very divisive issue and a product of the U.S. Congress. Being Kanaka Maoli is in the koko (blood). Either you have the koko (blood), or your koko-ole (no blood). This is the true Hawaiian way and because these issues involve Kanaka Maoli, their intent should be honored.

▶ What Mr. Case is creating by his bill is actually a "reservation for Hawaiians", controlled by the legislature and the Governor of Hawaii. It is a sad interpretation of the word "Autonomy". This bill intends to "strip" all semblance of self-determination and completely abolishes our right to the 1.8 million acres of trust lands. It attempts to negate all our past & future rights we have against the

Federal and State governments. It tries to ignore the recommendations of a report that, the Hawaii Advisory Committee to the U.S Civil Rights commission authored called "Broken Trust", 70 years of mismanagement by the State and Federal Government.

▶ If this bill were to set up a Sovereign entity, giving the Hawaiians the power to own and manage the natural resources of Hawaii, it would make sense. The State of Hawaii would release to this "entity", the 1,8 million acres that are being held by the state in "Trust" for us. We then can say that he is filling a role as the Chair of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

▶ We all know that this won't happen because Mr. Case was placed in his position by the powers to be. And his mission was to stop the "threat" of Hawaiians "demanding" for their rights from the State Of Hawaii. If the State would give the Hawaiians what is owed them, the State would go bankrupt.

▶ My question to the Speaker Mr. Souki and to the members of the House of Representative is how can you condone the Chair of this important committee to come out with such a harmful legislation to a people that is the host culture of this land? They welcomed everyone here with open arms and shared everything they possessed. Is this the thanks that we will get for sharing our aloha? Where is the "Aloha Spirit" for the "People of Aloha"

▶ There is a possibility that one good thing came out of this Autonomy Bill. We are always accused of not being united. Mr. Case might have given us the catalysts to unite against a common cause. As an after thought, "I Wonder what he has planned for Princess Pauahi Bishop and her 'Will'?"

Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell Sr.

kale@maui.net

<http://www.hookele.com/storyteller>

*"The cause of Hawaii and independence is larger and dearer than
the life of any man connected with it. Love of country is deep-
seated in the breast of every Hawaiian, whatever his station."*

-- Queen Lili'uokalani