

COLONIALISM IN HAWAII

"I never knew what this was!"

Colonialism, as the Tribunal Komike states, "is foreign domination, subjugation and exploitation of another peoples country. It undermines a people's national identity, traditions and culture" (1998). Hawaii has undoubtedly been dominated by the United States for a century and a half, our people and resources subjugated and exploited. An important part of that subjugation was the taking away of our 'olelo maoli – our real language. Kenyan author Ngugi wa Thiong'o explains that "economic and political control can never be complete without mental control"

This mental control is achieved through "the destruction or deliberate undervaluing of a people's culture, their arts, dances, religions, history, geography education, orature [oral traditions] and literature, and the conscious elevation of the language of the coloniser" (Ngugi 1986, 16).

When the U.S. identified oligarchy ended Hawaiian language public schools in 1896, they ripped out the bridge to our kupuna, the bridge of our understanding of ourselves as a people with a proud past. A generation then grew up for the first time ignorant of the language and mo'olelo of their grandparents who lived through the devastating losses in epidemics, denigration of all their customs, and loss of their Nation. Ngugi has called this experience a cultural bomb. "The effect of a cultural bomb is to annihilate a people's belief in their names, in their languages, in their environment, in their heritage of struggle, in their unity, in their capacities and ultimately in themselves. It makes them see their past as one wasteland of nonachievement and it makes them want to distance themselves from that wasteland" (1986, 3).

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Hawaiian Constitutional Convention 2008

Support and Participate in a Free, Fair & Impartial Political Process

Whereas, the fear of losing grants and entitlements for not supporting government programs or legislation, is the biggest threat and obstacle facing the native Hawaiian people (Kanaka Maoli) to freely determine the form of government of their choosing.

Whereas, the native Hawaiian people recognize that, a Hawaiian Constitutional Convention is a political process that ensures their political, economic, social and educational advancement, their just treatment and protection against abuses.

Whereas, the native Hawaiian people, will need a substantial period of time in which they can engage freely, and without fear of threat or intimidation, in the processes of educating themselves. They need the freedom to publicly debate amongst themselves, the various options of self governance available to them. It is imperative that they also have meaningful access to the mainstream news media in Hawaii.

Whereas, the Hawaiian Constitutional Convention will automatically protect and preserve the Sovereignty of the native Hawaiian people over their National and Ancestral Lands.

Let it be known to All peoples, governments, financial institutions, multi national corporations, and affiliated entities, throughout the World, that the native Hawaiian people proclaim their right of self-determination, in accordance with Article 1 (2) of the United Nations Charter as well as the recent Hawaii State Supreme Court Injunction, on January 31, 2008.

Be It Resolved That We, the undersigned native Hawaiian and non native Hawaiian people, Hereby Declare the Hawaiian Constitutional Convention in Session, on this, 27th day of May, 2008 @ 8pm.

- SAMPLE PETITION BELOW -

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill out petition properly, for clear future reference, Mahalo!

1. Print Name in gray box & sign in white box.
2. Island/District – Print island in gray box & district in white box.
3. Phone Number – Print phone number in gray box, second number in white box.
4. All Ages Eligible – Print age in gray box., if Hawaiian ancestry place (✓) by name.

Name (Print clearly & sign below, if Hawaiian ancestry place ✓ next to name)	Island/District	Phone	Age
1. Kupaianaha	OAHU	259-0000	20
<i>Kupaianaha</i> ✓	Waimanalo		
2. Sanford B. Dole	HAWAII	123-4567	100
<i>Sanford B. Dole</i>	Volcano		