

Notti to Address Hawaiians on Land Claims

Emil Notti, executive director of the Alaska Native Foundation, will address Hawaiians on native land claims on April 7 in Honolulu.

Notti will travel to Hawaii at the invitation of ALOHA, a group named for Aboriginal Lands of Hawaiian Ancestry.

Notti will share his expertise in the settlement of Alaska's native land claims with the Hawaiian people who are more recently embarked on efforts to effect a settlement for the aboriginal people of the Islands.

ALOHA is being represented by two Alaskan lawyers, Stanley

J. McCutcheon and Clark Gruening.

"Our people don't know their own history," said pretty Pua Demello, here in Alaska from ALOHA to consult with McCutcheon and Gruening.

"They were taught mainland American history in school and could not come up to the standards of voting eligibility during territorial days. They felt they had no power to exercise their rights, even if they did know them."

Pua's family were told that their 40-acre homestead on Molokai no longer belonged to them. Their plight was similar to that of other native Hawaiian families.

ALOHA seeks to guarantee the rights of people of Hawaiian blood as set forth in the treaty made at the time of Hawaii's annexation. They are now in the process of forming a convention along the lines of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Pua added, "It took a non-Hawaiian to get us started. If it weren't for Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Gruening being able to convince the people that they needn't be pushed aside, we wouldn't be as far as we are today."
