

CIRI purchase of Hawaiian land is controversial

NANA E KE KUMU
Native Hawaiian for
LOOK TO THE SOURCE
By Bill K'aiana

Recently Cook Inlet Region, Inc. purchased 69 acres of "surplus federal lands" in Honouliuli, Eva; near Honolulu, Hawaii. Cook Inlet Region, Inc. put forth an accepted bid of \$6.8 million, or approximately \$95,834 per acre, at federal auction.

This action merits keen attention. I have yet to see anything of it in the press here in Alaska. It has caused quite a controversy in Hawaii.

The Reagan Administration has the excuse the sale was necessary to "reduce the national deficit," the transaction has several faults. Ironically the purchase fulfills a legal obligation of the federal government according to the Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act.

Question: How is it that a Native Corporation of Alaska can take land that has yet to come before a Native Hawaiian Settlement?

It is my understanding that when the federal government first came into "possession," they had promised that should the land ever become "surplus" that the Hawaiian Natives would have first choice.

The federal government confiscated the land under the guise of National Defence around the time of World War II; similar to the enunciation of the PYK line in Alaska. The land should be returned to the Native Hawaiians.

Quote from the May 1983, The Hawaiian News: "Editorials in the Hawaiian News, reports by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and recommendations by the Federal State Task Force have recommended in the past a freeze be imposed on the sale of "federal" lands until Native Hawaiian land claims be settled;" this has yet to happen as the sale to Cook Inlet Region, Inc. clearly indicates.

It amazes me that even though this transaction has generated Associated Press attention there has not been any coverage here in Anchorage.

I further quote from another source the April 30, 1983 issue of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, "the federal govern-

ment is selling land in Hawaii to Native Alaskans as an indirect result, of the 1971 Alaskan Native Claims Act even though Native Hawaiians have yet to reach agreement with the federal government concerning their land claims."

Question: What was the traditional use of the 69 acres?

It has been brought to my attention that the land in question, was in fact a religious area. When the federal government took "possession" they bulldozed stone monoliths of religious significance to the indigenous Hawaiians, into giant heaps which now look like large burial mounds covered up with grass. If that checks out then the land is protected under the Freedom of Religion Act.

Question: Why doesn't the grass root level people (the shareholders), of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. have knowledge of this purchase of questionable land?

NANA E KE KUMU
-LOOK UNTO THE SOURCES WITHIN YOURSELF. I have asked a number of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. shareholders how they feel about the purchase and have been told time and again that they have no inclination of what is going on.

NANA E KE KUMU-
LOOK TO THE SOURCE, the Source points to the Truths that must be acknowledged, thus a path to solution.

I sincerely feel that the delegates of United Tribes of Alaska should pass resolution of support towards a land freeze in Hawaii.

At the last U.T.A. board meeting I had requested what steps should I take. I was asked to bring resolutions of support to the general membership meetings, I have been delegated to take such action both by my Ohana (Family), and by Lahui O Hawai'i, (Clan of Hawaii).

Hawaiian Natives, the same as Alaska Natives have never relinquished their sovereign rights. As my last quotes in-
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Hawaiian land purchase

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dicate:

"We all know these islands were illegally taken over and Native Hawaiian rights violated. Yet we must wait for the slow learners of the American Government, as well as its Congress, its courts, and our False State to conceive this fact!

"Auwe noho'i e! I thought they supposed to be smart and bright people.

"Sovereignty can not be Bought! It is priceless. Money has no place in sovereignty. Only through complete genocide, and I stress this point strongly, because only through complete genocide can sovereignty be taken away or lost.

"Is this what America have done? Is this what America has in mind? Therefore it is time for the United States to wise up and realize this fact; as well as our fraudulent State.

"In closing I would like to say, the mana of the Heavens is being redistributed; and we have it within our ^{now}power to do the nation over again. If not us, who? And if not now, when?"

'Ike Akua
Kaolelo Lambert-John
Ulalco
Keokea, Puna, Hawaii
RR 1 Box 6101
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778"

One last question: Where do I get my foundation to write concerning these important issues?

I am Inupiaq, Kobuk Eskimo, born in Fairbanks raised in Tenakee Hot Springs and Haines in Southeast Alaska. I am a member of the Sea-Alaska Corporation. My IRA membership is in Tenakee.

I am also fourth generation Native Hawaiian, my great great grandfather Namakeha aina a member of the alli'i (royalty) from Kauai came to Alaska 28 years before the first whaling vessel landed on the Hawaiian Islands; due to problems instigated by the colonialists who have corrupted the Islands as well as Alaska.

I have found my Ohana (family) in Hawaii, I am a member of Lahui O' Hawai'i which means the Clan of Hawaii, which is a group that advocates to all Native causes.

Lahui O' Hawai'i also monitors all issues pertaining to Native Hawaiians, on the grass root level, the Source.

I have been delegated by both my Ohana and Lahui O' Hawai'i to submit this letter as well as resolutions pertaining to Native Hawaiian concerns.

Mahalo
Aloha Nui
Bill K'aiana