

# Benefits Sought for Hawaiians

The success of Alaska Natives in settling the land question with the federal government may be playing an inspirational role in the battle for aboriginal rights that Hawaiian Natives are fighting today.

Because the amount of land making up the Hawaiian Islands is tiny compared to the vastness of Alaska, and because of its commercial high value as an international resort attraction, the aboriginal claim to land faces a monumental task.

Still, many Native Hawaiians are in the battle.

A recent Alaska visitor to the 50th state learned of a Native

woman there who is suing the federal government for taking land away from its original owners. The suit asks for trillions of dollars in payment for the loss of land.

In other Hawaiian matters, the outlook is hopeful for congressional passage of social legislation to provide federal benefits for Natives of the state, an official said.

Myron B. Thompson, director of the state's department of social services and housing, said measures before the House and Senate in Washington would provide federal payments to relieve the state of welfare as-

sistance for Hawaiian Natives.

He said Hawaii would save \$10 million this year and \$11 million next year if the measures are successful.