

ALOHA becomes active again

A.L.O.H.A. (Aboriginal Lands of Hawaiian Ancestry) -- has moved to reinstate their association charter and once more become a viable force for settlement of Hawaiian land claims. Louisa Rice, founder of the original A.L.O.H.A. Association, returned to her home on Molokai last week to reactivate the group, which had been inactive for about five years. About thirty Molokai Natives gathered for the meeting.

Louisa came at a time when Hawaiian Natives were getting ready to vote for nine members of a new State office called Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or O.H.A. "Oha" is a word carrying the connotation of "family" in the Hawaiian language. A staggering field of 139 candidates are running for the nine seats on this new board. One of the purposes of the new office is to be receiver of Hawaiian land claims reparations payments, although the Hawaiian reparations bill is still in Congress awaiting passage.

O.H.A. was created by the

Hawaiian Constitutional Convention which met last year, and many Hawaiians view it as the long-awaited effort by the State of Hawaii to administer Hawaiian aboriginal trust lands and money on a more responsive and personal basis than in the past.

Others, however, have expressed reservations about O.H.A. Some of their fears are for the future of Hawaiian Homestead Lands, that non-resident and the Hawaiians are left out, on administration of trust funds by a government agency. A.L.O.H.A. members share these apprehensions, but have expressed willingness to work with the new agency.

Louisa Rice, in calling the meeting, said she hoped to see a renewed effort to get the Hawaiian reparations bill out of Congress. She spoke to the group of the possibility of gaining designation as an Indian "tribe" by the Department of Interior, of looking into the formation of an IRA, of non-profit status and many other things that could be helpful to Native

Hawaiians in improving their welfare and preserving their culture. Louisa now works in Kenai for the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, and hopes to bring many of the same benefits to Hawaii.

Guest of Honor at the meeting was B. Agnes Brown, president of Tyonek Native Corporation and a Cook Inlet Region board member. Agnes, whose brother was Albert Kaloa, is half Hawaiian and half Athabascan Indian. She told the group of the progress of Alaska Native land claims, of the functions of the corporations, and about non-profit and profit corporations.

The meeting confirmed the officers of the Molokai chapter of the association as: Samuel Makaiwi, president; James Hon, vice-president; Vanda Hanakahi, secretary; Rosie Mawae, treasurer; and Kuulei Perez, membership chairman.

Chapters on Kauai and Maui have been reported as still active; Louisa hopes to remain in Hawaii long enough to contact them and possibly reinstate others.