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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Re: SCR 17 / SR 12

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME
LANDS TO PERFORM AN ACTUARIAL STUDY ON THE SIZE
OF THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED FUTURE
POPULATIONS OF HAWAIIANS ELIGIBLE TO LEASE
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This resolution is proposed in partial fulfillment of a hidden agenda, which is somewhat displayed in the final whereas clause: "... a more recent calculation of the size of current and future eligible populations will give state and federal entities the information they need to adjust the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act as necessary..."

In the regular session of 2017, the legislature passed HB451 HD1 SD2 CD1 which was signed by the Governor and became Act 080 (7/05/17). That law lowers the native blood quantum required for a lease on the Hawaiian homelands.

Currently an original lease can be given only to someone who has at least 50% native blood, although someone with at least 25% can inherit a lease. But if Congress approves, then according to Act 80 (2017) the blood quantum requirement will be only 1/32; i.e., a mere 0.03125%. As we have discovered recently, that's even lower than the Cherokee blood quantum of Senator Elizabeth Warren, laughingly given the nickname "Pocahontas" by President Trump.

So the motive behind this resolution is obvious -- provide data to help persuade Congress why it should allow the blood quantum for a Hawaiian homestead lease to fall to such a ridiculously low level.

I'll tell you what the level should be reduced to: zero. There should be no requirement for any native blood for someone to be able to have a homestead lease on the public lands of the State of Hawaii. That's the way it was during the Kingdom period, and the Provisional Government period, and the Territorial period prior to the 1921 enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Ex-Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole cried to Congress about his poor downtrodden homeless natives, and Congress created a series of red-lined neighborhoods for them, changing race-neutral lands available for fee-simple home ownership into leasehold lands that must always remain inside the boundaries of a racial ghetto.

Now we have 27,000 native Hawaiians of 50% or higher native blood quantum crying because they have been on the waiting list for a long time -- sometimes for decades. But the legislature, in its lack of wisdom, decided in 2017 that it would be a terrific idea to vastly increase the length of the waiting list by reducing the required native blood quantum down to Elizabeth Warren levels.

So now comes this resolution to measure how awful is the debacle of Act 80 (2017), hoping that Congress will see it as a splendid opening up of opportunity for hundreds of thousands more so-called Native Hawaiians now to be defined as 0.03125%. Do you legislators imagine that Congress will provide funding for such wild dreams? Don't be silly. Just imagine how many Billions of dollars will be demanded in future lawsuits against the taxpayers of Hawaii to provide the "promised land." 40 acres and a mule will not be enough. The Hawaii judiciary will issue an order commanding the legislature to satisfy the obligation it has enacted.

Aside from the bad practical consequences, this resolution stinks of racism when it blames high-quantum native Hawaiians for loving and making babies with non-natives. As though high-quantum Hawaiians have somehow betrayed their race and sacrificed their mana by failing to engage in ni'aupi'o matings. The story of Kauikeaouli and his sister Nahi'ena'ena is indeed a noble vision and a great tragedy as such a mating was demanded by both their culture and their royal duty. Even from Shakespeare we hear the plaintive cry of Juliet screaming in despair "Wherefore art thou a Romeo?" as she loved a man belonging to the wrong tribe. But those are bygone days. It's time to let people love whom they wish, and not to resent them for choosing outside the requirements of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Just say NO to this resolution. People should not be treated like dogs needing a pedigree..