



TO REBUILD THE HAWAIIAN NATION:

**A POSITION STATEMENT TO ENHANCE  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN SELF-DETERMINATION**

(As approved by the Board of Trustees  
July 1994)

*O ka ho'olohe a me ka malama pono i ke aupuni.  
(Obedience and fidelity to the nation.)*

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
1994

**POSITION STATEMENT:  
Regarding Native Hawaiian Self-Determination  
And the Role of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

**Introduction.** Since 1989, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has formally endorsed and advocated for the restoration and recognition of a self-determined Native Hawaiian government.

Significant progress has made to create educational and political mechanisms for the fullest exploration of self-governance options possible to the Hawaiian people. In particular, the establishment of Hui Na'auao and the Hawaiian Sovereignty Advisory Commission (now the Hawaiian Elections Council) have nurtured this opportunity of choice.

**Statement.** To further enhance the self-determination of the Native Hawaiian people and to more fully meet OHA's responsibilities to work for the betterment of Native Hawaiian people, the Board of Trustees hereby adopts and affirms this position statement to support and secure formal acknowledgment and recognition of:

- 1. The unique status the Native Hawaiian people bear to the other nations of the world, the United States and the State of Hawaii; and***
- 2. To foster the re-establishment of an indigenous, self-determined Native Hawaiian government by providing information related to the governmental options available within the framework of appropriate international charters, treaties and laws (international models); available within the constitution and laws of the United States (nation within a nation models); and the constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii (state within a state models).***

It is the intent of this position statement to create the framework for future OHA programs and projects to assist and effectuate the re-establishment of the Native Hawaiian government by:

- 1. Promoting and enhancing Native Hawaiian and public understanding and support for the inherent Native Hawaiian right of sovereignty;**
- 2. Strengthening and providing for informed self-determination by the Native Hawaiian people;**
- 3. Researching and developing the base of information necessary to a fair presentation of options and possible models of Native Hawaiian self-government;**

**4. Supporting and providing both the information and the opportunity for the Native Hawaiian people to consider and to discuss the nature of sovereignty and the choices for self-government; and**

**5. Supporting and securing the recognition and reality of the self-determined Native Hawaiian nation.**

By the adoption of this position statement, any intent or appearance by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to endorse a particular model of nationhood is repudiated.