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DOT Director
Mr. Rex Johnson

FAX 5872132

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I realize that you are new to your office and wish to extend my aloha. You may not be aware of some questionable practices in effect in your department which I hope you will investigate.

I believe the actions of your department show contempt for the indigenous rights of na kanaka maoli, the first people of Hawaii. Specifically, I am referring to the suppression of free speech and immediate release of information necessary to preserve our culture, our cultural treasures and our religious sites. The Halawa Heiau Complex is the most important archaeological discovery in Hawaii. The State espouses preserving the cultural heritage of na kanaka maoli but does not practice it.

I would like to see the following policy changes. First, any contracts for archaeological digs would permit the free sharing of any information with na kanaka maoli and other knowledgeable scientists. Materials (notes, meetings, etc.) would be immediately available to prevent the destruction of sites before their significance was proved. (Today Linda Delaney of OHA is still talking about the agricultural terraces at Luluku which was politically and economically expedient for OHA, the State department which does not uphold the rights of na kanaka maoli, and the State of Hawaii. And Kukuiokane, the largest heiau in Kaneohe and the one thousand burials were buried under tons of gravel, soil and rocks. Archaeologists (now that they have been paid) admit they buried a significant heiau. Moreover, Daniel Yanagita whose family have been the traditional watchers of the area was ignored and abused both by OHA and DOT. He died because he was unable to put to rest the bones of our kupuna.) Second, na kanaka maoli individuals and organizations would become consultants on any projects which involve our aina, our land. I would suggest Healani Doane, Pua Kanahale, Kaleo Patterson, Ka Lahui, Hui Na'auao (a coalition of 44 Hawaiian groups focusing on sovereignty education funded with a million dollar ANA grant) and in the non-Hawaiian community: the Hawaii Green Party, A Thousand Friends, the Sierra Club. These are a beginning list. Third, studies will occur before any project is bid out, no matter how many years it takes for a complete study to be conducted as determined by culturally sensitive anthropologists, archaeologists and other specialists; needed to develop a scientifically valid report. (Jane Allen's report on Maunawili is still not available and significant sites were destroyed. She refused to listen to Marion Kelley, UH Ethnic Studies, who had 28 years of experience at the Bishop Museum and is recognized as an authority on Hawaiian culture as well as an experienced specialist on archaeological surveys, as well as Buddy Neller, archaeologist.) Fourth, there will be advertised in the OHA paper and every major paper on each island, a three month review period and taking of testimony. After consulting with various segments of the community and after public hearings, the State would decide if the project is to become a reality and be put out to bid.

I would like to request the DOT Contract with the Bishop Museum and any notes connected with it as well as all data on H3. I would like to request copies of the notes, etc. on the Luluku side and Halawa site. All contracts, memorandum, lists of findings, etc.

Mahalo for this opportunity to address this serious concern.



Lela M. Hubbard
Na Koa Ikaika