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May 19, 2006

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha no Governor Lingle:

As you know, we have received word that S.147, the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2005 will be scheduled for Senate floor consideration during the first week in June 2006. It is our tentative understanding that a cloture petition on S. 147 will be filed on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. It is also likely that a cloture petition will be filed for the Estate Tax Bill at the same time. The Estate Tax bill and the Native Hawaiian Organization Act of 2005 have been linked together since July 2005, despite the fact that substantively there is no connection. If the cloture petition on S. 147 is filed on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, it will ripen, and vote on the petition may occur on Thursday, June 8, 2006.

Our legal advocates in Washington D.C. are working closely with Senators Inouye and Akaka to assure that the 60 votes required to approve the cloture petition are committed prior to the vote on June 8, 2006. It appears that the vote may be close as certain Senators have yet to publically commit their votes for the needed 60 votes to approve cloture on S. 147.

Governor, you have been with us on this Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (S. 147) journey for the past four years because you are well aware of what is at stake for Native Hawaiians, and you believe as you have said before, that what is good for Hawaiians is good for Hawai'i. We stand at the threshold of the big vote needing at least a total of 60 Senators voting "aye" for cloture and the greatest number past 51 and more for passage in the Senate.

On behalf of the OHA Board of Trustees and our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, I express to you that it would be extremely important and most helpful to have you present in Washington D.C. prior to the possible cloture vote being taken on Thursday, June 8, 2006.

Again, according to our legal advocates there are a certain number of Senators who may need to be reassured by you relating to what the bill does and does not do in advance of and prior to committing their vote. A face-to-face visit from the Governor of Hawai`i would go a long way in providing this reassurance to them on S. 147 and would further underscore the priority that you place on this Bill as well.

Therefore, we would encourage you to be present in Washington D.C., at least during the period of Monday, June 5, 2006, through Tuesday, June 6, 2006. These two (2) days preceding the vote on the bill can be used to visit those key senators whose votes need to be committed.

Mahalo nui loa for all that you have done thus far to assure the passage of S. 147. It appears that we are now at the final phase of what has been an extremely arduous journey. We look forward to your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours

Trustee S. Haunani Apoliona
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

cc: Robert Awana
Leany Klompus
OHA Trustees