



Halau Ku Mana
New Century Public Charter School



Mr. Chair

Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Distinguished Representatives

Indigenous Brothers and Sisters

Aloha nui kakou! Greetings! 'O Kalei Baldwin ko'u inoa. My name is Kalei Baldwin and I attend Halau Ku Mana, a Hawaiian Charter School located at the University of Hawai'i Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies.

Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol abuse are some of the biggest issues facing Hawaiian Youth today. According to recent statistics Native Hawaiians make up 63.4% of Heavy Drinkers (Binge & Chronic) compared to 32.5% statewide. Marijuana use among Hawaiians is 39.9% compared to 28.9% statewide. Tobacco use is an alarming 56.3% compared to 47.2% in the state of Hawai'i. Given these facts the Health Status of Native Hawaiians are rapidly declining. What makes this issue more disheartening is 6.1% of Native Hawaiians are uninsured and there is no accurate number of how

many Hawaiians actually do have Health Insurance.

This issue of not having Health Insurance really hits home to me because when my papa died my nana Grace Hemenway who is more than 68.5% Hawaiian had a hard time going to the Doctors because she had No insurance. My mom shared with me how hard it was for her to go to a free clinic where she had to wait along time to be seen by a doctor when she was so use to having a private doctor of her own. She also felt shame because she had a hard time paying her medical bills and medication. My Nana should not have had to go through that. She being a Native Hawaiian should have full coverage.

The youth today also get involved with Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol because they see it used alot in their own home. Some of my own family members use these substances and I feel sad because it really ruins their lives.

In closing I would like to say that we the Hawaiian Youth today can break this vicious cycle! Those of us who have good examples. Some of mine are my parents, my teachers at Halau Ku Mana who majority are Native Hawaiians and Dr. Lilikala Director of Hawaiian Studies at the University of Manoa and others.