

## Analū Kame'eiamoku Josephides, National Lands Chair of Ka Lāhui Hawai'i To The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues United Nations, New York May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Aloha Mai Kākou, e ke akua, e nā 'aumakua, e nā kupuna, e nā 'oiwi a nā po'e e hui pū ma'anei.¹O Wau O Analū Kame'eiamoku Josephides Mai Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Mai O ka Pae 'Āina 'O Hawai'i. Thank you, Mr. Chair for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Ka Lahui Hawai'i, a native initiative for self-determination of the Indigenous Peoples of Hawai'i. We would also like to congratulate Ms. Mililani Trask the Indigenous Permanent Forum Member representing the Pacific Basin, including my Hawaiian brothers and sisters.

The Indigenous Peoples of Hawai'i have endured great hardship since the arrival of foreigners in 1778 'til the time of the illegal occupation of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the dispossession of our late Queen Lili'uokalani in 1893. Since then, the present colonizer government of the United States has exploited the lands of the Hawaiian Archaepelago and desecrated the mother of our ancestors through the constant manipulation of the abundant natural resources that surround the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i each day. Like many places in the world, Military Occupation, Tourism and Multi-National Corporations are rapidly destroying the natural environment in Hawai'i.

The constant presence of Military Regimes within all Indigenous peoples areas have caused great fear and has for so long disabled all Indigenous communities from safekeeping their vital and priceless resources that enable the Indigenous peoples to survive. In Hawai'i, the United States military utilized the island of Kaho'olawe as a bombing target and continue such live fire training in Mākua on the island of O'ahu. The timeframe allocated for the completion of cleanup of Kaho'olawe by the Navy is nearing its end, yet unexploded ordinances, especially in the sub-surface of the island remain. Moreover, the US military practices live bombing on our lands, especially on the most populated island of O'ahu where 1.2 million people

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Aloha Mai Kakou, e ke Akua, e na aumakua, e na kupuna, e na oiwi a na po'e e hui pu maanei ", means, "Greetings to all, to God, to the guardian spirits, to the ancestors, to the Indigenous Peoples and to all peoples gathered here,. I am Analu Kameeiamoku Josephides, the National Lands Chair from the Nation of Hawaii the Hawaiian Archaepelago."

live, and where the military wants to expand their bombing practices by another 1500 acres. The American military also stores nuclear waste from nuclear submarines on our land.

Tourism and Governmental Development have stolen Indigenous Territories most resourceful lands, such as, rivers, streams, agricultural lands and sacred, burial and cultural sites. The constant development of resorts and recreational facilities for foreign use has caused the Indigenous peoples of the World to lose such valuable resources, that once destroyed, cannot be replaced and function in its original capacity assisting the Indigenous Peoples in our self-subsistent lifestyles. Furthermore, the promotion of Hawai'i as a tourist destination has led to the prostitution of the Hawaiian culture.

Multi-National Corporations are monopolizing land investments in areas inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. These Corporations continue to abuse existing laws that govern these various regions in order to gain profit. The abuse has caused great destruction to the habitat of the various regions of the World causing much of our animal and plant life to be either endangered or extinct.

In Article 28 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples it states that: "Indigenous Peoples shall receive assistance in order to restore and protect the environment of their land and resources. Army activities shall not take place on the land of indigenous peoples without their consent."

Therefore, with all due respect and humility, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i urges the immediate adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, so that our sacred ancestor, the earth may live without such terrible destruction.

As a recommendation we put forward this proposal that all government and private developers be required to complete and submit in all circumstances Environmental Impact Statements. That for no reason, not even for National Security purposes should any form of development occur without the process of an EIS.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, all EIS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> EIS stands for Environmental Impact Statement.

should require an assessment of the development's cultural impacts.

The second recommendation is that all Governmental Agencies, Military Regimes, and Multi-National Corporation fully clean all waste from the various Indigenous peoples lands immediately and not cover it up with dirt, but allow Mother earth to breathe again and the Indigenous peoples of that area to care for Mother Earth as did our ancestors.