

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 18th Session, April 22-May 3, 2019
Agenda Item 12: Follow up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Intervention by Nation of Hawai'i, presented by Meredith Alena Brooks

Mahalo Madame Chair and aloha to all delegations. Pursuant to US Public law 103-150 and its legal foundation, Nation of Hawai'i asserts its national sovereignty over its lands and natural resources. With emergence over authority, Nation of Hawai'i enacts and protects the rights of its people, waters, and lands through the application of innovative systems rooted in culture and structured in the framework of the *ahupua'a*.

The *ahupua'a* is the traditional land division, from the mountains to the ocean, which Hawaiians use to manage natural resources. Much like the *ahupua'a* in the natural world, Nation of Hawai'i uses *Ahupua'a Economics* to manage the flow of socioeconomic resources and ensure that all citizens, especially the most vulnerable, can flourish and contribute to the success of our Nation. Through its cryptocurrency *Aloha Coin*, new revenue streams, business development services, and partnerships with forward-thinking organizations like M.I.T., Nation of Hawai'i provides citizens with viable opportunities to improve their lives and stimulate our economy.

Our blending of cutting-edge science with traditional knowledge enables Nation of Hawai'i to produce innovative solutions, such as superior plant-based medicines and proton water to heal a variety of ailments. Our state-of-the-art health and wellness center will expand on the Aloha Medicine treatments and therapies Nation of Hawai'i has offered for the past thirty years, with a focus on natural and traditional remedies originating from within the *ahupua'a*.

Sustainable, practical solutions to many global problems are being developed in Nation of Hawai'i. On its sovereign land base, *Pu'u honua o Waimānalo*, the Nation is working with partners on technologies that sustainably utilize our *ahupua'a*. The blue box water treatment system synthesizes the negative ions found in nature to purify water, just like our *ahupua'a* does, and can be deployed to detoxify large bodies of water. A similar eco-friendly design called the "simple toilet" utilizes heat to burn waste and cooling to liquefy vapor from the burning waste to fill the toilet with clean water. We especially thank our partners in Japan for assisting us with these technologies.

These innovations are an important aspect of environmental management in Nation of Hawai'i, as is the use of digital technology. Our experts use advanced drone and mapping technologies to create 3D restoration and sustainable development plans for our *ahupua'a*. This assists Nation of Hawai'i in the removal of invasive trees, which are replaced with sustainable agriculture and much-needed housing for displaced Hawaiians.

As technology improves, digital innovation becomes increasingly important to the advancements of many of our Nation's goals. From e-residency to connectography, Nation of Hawai'i is creating and utilizing new opportunities to empower our citizens, including those who have been displaced from Hawai'i.

In consideration of the United Nations wishes to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in the United Nations, we recommend the Permanent Forum implement digital strategies including but not limited to a virtual forum to increase accessibility for all indigenous peoples across the world, and to improve the overall sustainability of the Forum.