

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 18th Session, April 22-May 3, 2019
Agenda Item 14: Future work of the Permanent Forum
Intervention by Nation of Hawai‘i, presented by Keiki Kanahele-Santos

****INTERPRETER, INTERVENTION WILL BE IN HAWAIIAN, PLEASE READ THE BELOW TRANSLATION****

Please put on your headset.

Mahalo Madame Chair and *aloha* to all delegations. My name is Keiki o Namahiai Kanahele-Santos. I am the grandson of Nation of Hawai‘i’s Head of State, Pu‘uhonua Dennis “Bumpy” Kanahele. I was born and raised on our sovereign land base, Pu‘uhonua o Waimānalo and I had the privilege of attending Hawaiian immersion school. I am fluent in *‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i*, our mother tongue.

I was born on November 16, 1998, 105 years after the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and five years after the passage of U.S. Public Law 103-150, the Apology Law. My upbringing allowed me to reclaim my identity as a Hawaiian National but my life outside the Nation made me realize that many Hawaiians have yet to find their Hawaiian National identity.

Fellow Hawaiians and other ethnic groups in Hawai‘i cannot fathom the idea that Hawaiians will become independent again. It was discouraging and heartbreaking to have friends doubt the restoration of the Hawaiian Nation. I didn’t understand these doubts because Nation of Hawai‘i already has the four criteria of an independent nation: a land base, a distinct population, a government, and international relations.

As a child, the two words that stuck with me were **justice** and **overthrow**. I witnessed many of the problems Hawaiians face due to the illegal overthrow of our Hawaiian Nation. I worried about losing my home, and wondered why our Hawaiian flag was upside down to show our Nation is in distress. I experienced negativity, hatred, and doubt that are tied to the injustice that Hawaiians experienced and continue to face.

I learned that to be Hawaiian is to fight for our rights and our people. Our *‘ōlelo no‘eau* (words of wisdom) tell us, “Little work, little gain.” My family occupied Makapu‘u Lighthouse and Kaupō Beach to fight for Hawaiian independence and the right of our people to have homes on our national lands. We address each other as *‘ohana* (family) even though we are not blood-related. However, we are bound by the experiences of our families, who exercised their rights as Hawaiians, and occupied land. Through sacrifice and hard work, they established our sovereign Hawaiian land base, which we developed over the past 25 years.

We recommend that the Permanent Forum conduct a study on how to increase the participation of youth in the fight for sovereignty.

To all the youth in Hawai‘i, we are the future. We must stand together to fight for what is ours, to finish what our *kūpuna* started, and to bring justice back to Hawai‘i. “No task is too big when done together by all.” *Eo*.

****INTERVENTION IN ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I****

PLEASE PUT ON YOUR HEADSET

Hana ‘elua: Mahalo Noho Makame,

Aloha e nā hui a pau, ‘o Keiki o namahiai Kanahale-Santos ko‘u inoa, o au ka mo‘opuna kāne o ke po‘o <o> ka Lāhui Hawai‘i, ‘o ia ho‘i ‘o Pu‘uhonua Dennis “Bumpy” Kanahale. Ua hānau au ma ka ‘āina mō‘ī, o Pu‘uhonua o Waimānalo. Na‘u ke kuleana e hele i ke Kula Kaiapuni Hawai‘i a e ho‘ola i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. ‘Ōlelo piha au ma ka ‘ōlelo makuahine.

Ua hānau au ma ka lā **‘umi kūmā ‘ono** o Nowemapa, ma ka makahiki **‘ekahi kaukani kana iwa kūmā walu**, he **ho‘okahi haneli ‘elima** makahiki ma hope mai o ka lā **ho‘o kāhuli**, a me **‘elima** makahiki ma hope o ka **Pila Mihi**. Ma ko‘u wā kupu, ua ‘imi wau i ku‘u mau kanaka maoli, a ua ‘ike pū au i ka nalo-hia o nā kanaka ‘ē a‘e, ma waho o ko‘u pu‘uhonua.

‘Ike ole nā kānaka Hawai‘i a me nā kānaka ‘ē a‘e i ka lāhui kū‘oko‘a. Piha ke kaumaha ma ko‘u na‘au i nā hoa i kānalua i ka mana‘o <o> Hawai‘i, he pae ‘āina kū‘oko‘a. Huikau wau i kēia kuana‘ike, ‘oiai, ua loa‘a ka lāhui Hawai‘i i nā māhele ‘ehā, i pono no kekahi lāhui kū‘oko‘a: ka ‘āina, ke kānaka, ke aupuni, a me ka pilina me nā ‘āina ‘ē.

Ua pa‘a nā hua‘ōlelo **Kaulike** a me **Kāhuli** me ia‘u. ‘Ike wau i nā pilikia o nā po‘e Hawai‘i mahope ‘o ka **lā ho‘o kāhuli-aupuni**. Hopohopo wau i ka loa‘a ‘ole o ko‘u hale. Nui ko‘u mana‘o o ka hae Hawai‘i i ho‘ohuli‘ia, akā ua ‘ike wau he hō‘ailona pōpilikia o nā po‘e Hawai‘i. Ua ‘ike wau i ka minamina, ‘ino, a me ke kānalua o nā kānaka Hawai‘i, mamuli o ka hana hewa.

A‘o au ke ‘ano o ka Hawai‘i, e kū a paio no ka pono o ka lāhui. E like me ka ‘Ōlelo No‘eau, **“‘U‘uku ka hana, ‘u‘uku ka loa‘a.”** Ua paio ko‘u ‘ohana ma ka **Hale ipukukui** a me **Kaupō**. No nā pono Hawai‘i, e hiki nā po‘e ke loa‘a i ka **‘āina pono‘ī**.

‘A‘ole pili kākou me ke koko, akā, he pilina ‘ohana kō kākou mamuli o ka hana kū‘ē no ka pono o ka lāhui. Ua kū kēia ‘āina kupainaha no **iwa kā lua kūmālina** mau makahiki, mā ‘ō ka mohai a me ka hana nui.

Kāko‘o wau i ka ho‘opa‘a-ha‘awina no ‘oukou i hiki ke ho‘opi‘i i ke kāko‘o ‘ana i nā kamali‘i e paio no ka ea Hawai‘i.

E nā ‘ōpio o Hawai‘i, **‘o mākou ka wā e hiki mai ana**. Pono kākou e ‘ākoakoa mai, a e kū, a e paio no kō kākou pono‘ī, a e ho‘omau i nā mea i ho‘omaka ‘ia e kō kākou mau kūpuna, a e hōmai ke kaulike i Hawai‘i nei. *“‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia.” Eo.*