



Mr. Chair, Members of the Permanent Forum, Distinguished

Representatives, Indigenous brothers and sisters, Aloha.

My name is Lei Freed, I am 18 years old and I am a student at

Halau Ku Mana Hawaiian public charter school located at the

University of Hawai'i Manoa, Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian

Studies

According to article 3, "Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their social, economic and cultural development." I ask that you adopt this article because if this article was put into action for the people of Hawai'i we wouldn't have so many homeless Hawaiians. 20% of the homeless

people in Hawai'i are Hawaiians and of that 20%, 14% of them are children.

As of April 20th 2003 my family and I are officially homeless. Something that I thought could never happen to me. How is it possible that I have no house to call home? What am I suppose to do? How do I act? Am I still seen as a living, breathing person? Or am I now considered just another number on a piece of paper? Questions like these are the same questions that go through everybody's mind when they find out they're going to be homeless. And as bad as it is for me at 18, I know it's worse for my younger brothers and sisters. I don't want them to grow up with a complex because of these hard times my family and I are facing.

In closing I would like to say that it is because of situations like mine and similar situations all over Hawai'i that I ask you to call

for the immediate adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples and ask that Hawai`i be reinscribed on the
UN list of Decolonizing Nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Permanent Forum.