

14th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Item 8: Draft Report on efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Self-Determination
Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
Presenter Joshua Cooper

Mahalo Chairperson,

We are pleased to participate and share perspectives from the Pacific regarding self-determination.

We are focusing on self-determination in a handful of Pacific Islands Nations to illustrate the obstacles and opportunities to achieve self-determination in Oceania.

Hawai'i is the core of our organizing and we are dedicated to exploring promising practices to implement article 3 of the UN DRIP. We are very interested in models of self-determination as well as specifically sustainable development.

Last year during the UN High Level Political Forum, Hawai'i became the first state to host a Voluntary Local Review sharing the ideas and initiatives in our islands dedicated to sustainable development. We hosted a Local Lab sharing our experience and reaching out to partner with fellow movements in Oceania.

Hawai'i shared the examples of engagement to achieve the 2030 Agenda exploring the unique campaigns on our campuses, communities and our capital.

Hawai'i is dedicated to the Paris Agreement as well. We are exploring the creation of a Locally Determined Contribution to live up to the climate agreement of below 2 striving for 1.5. We know it's important to our Pacific nation neighbors.

Speaking of Oceania, we want to share recent examples of self-determination for Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

In Papua New Guinea, we coordinated a UPR program to assist communities sharing strategies. Self-determination states community never deprived of own means of subsistence. We met with communities attempting to exercise the basic right.

In Samoa, we organized with youth around the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Extraordinary Session. We continued with the UPR to fully exercise the right of self-determination.

We welcome EMRIP to visit the region and continue exploring positive ways to exercise the right of self-determination.

Mahalo nui loa