



National American Indian Housing Council

News Release

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NAIHC Embraces Native Hawaiian Housing Challenges

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i. The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) met in Kona, Hawai'i, on Tuesday and pledged to work together for the betterment of Native housing.

NAIHC, a 35-year non-profit organization that represents and advocates for Native American housing, last year extended voting membership to DHHL. This allows NAIHC to advocate more effectively on behalf of native Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians face many of the same obstacles that affect Native American communities throughout the United States.

“NAIHC’s mission is to provide advocacy, technical assistance and training to native communities that help improve their housing conditions. We are proud to support native Hawaiian housing throughout their home lands,” said Marty Shuravloff, NAIHC Chairman.

DHHL, a department of the state of Hawaii, is the principal agency that advocates and assists native Hawaiians in home ownership and community development. DHHL led NAIHC Board members and staff on a tour of housing and community development projects on the western side of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

“Housing is a critical issue for DHHL and the state of Hawaii,” said Micah Kane, Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. “Working with NAIHC and our Congressional Delegation led by Senator Inouye, we have been able to support programs such as the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant that has had a tremendous impact on improving the lives of native Hawaiians.”

Recently, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye introduced the “Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2009” (S.72), which would reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians, including Native Hawaiian block grants, Section 184A and Title VI loan guarantee programs through 2013. Yesterday, NAIHC Chairman Shuravloff sent a letter supporting the passage of S.72 to Senator Inouye.

“NAIHC will continue to work hard to increase funding for Native American housing. NAIHC proudly supports our newest voting member to NAIHC in their efforts to increase funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant,” said Paul Lumley, NAIHC Executive Director.

NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian Communities.

NAIHC... “A Tradition of Native American Housing” www.naihc.net



Bob Freitas, DHHL Planner, describes community planning issues with NAIHC Board Members, staff and guests.



View of DHHL Kaniohale subdivision, Villages of La'i 'Opuā.

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