

A Summary of the First Meeting of
THE NATIONAL APOLOGY FOLLOW-UP TASK FORCE
United Church of Christ

August 21-23, 1994
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Purpose/goals of Redress:

- . renewing sense of trust & trustworthiness
- . restoring what was lost: self-worth, dignity, self-determination
- . addressing specific injustices (land & leadership)
- . new vision, forward movement
- . reconciliation and partnership of Church & Kanaka Maoli
- . unity of Hawaiian people
- . healing hurts which lead to abuse
- . moving beyond victimization

Other thoughts about redress:

- . guilt, forgiveness of victim role. The wrong they did to us is not going to happen to us anymore.
- . redress is somewhere between getting what we deserve and not letting the victim role victimize us.
- . when victims see the oppressor stand along with the victims. No longer will the outsiders tell us who we are. It is empowerment to make our own decisions.
- . there is internal and external redress. Redress not meaningful until we stop letting our pain energize all our disfunctionalities. Redress means to provide the settings and assist the oppressed to move beyond the colonized soul.

Possible components of redress:

. Cultural Center:

A site of at least 50 acres (that includes, or has access to, water, ocean and mountains) and facilities to house 200-300 people, for the purposes of

- + education & perpetuation of Hawaiian history/culture
- + gathering of people to nurture family & community
- + development of leadership
- + healing & reconciliation
- + religious growth and spiritual awakening
- + providing a safe place, meeting place

This would not be a new church start, camp site, a Polynesian Cultural Center or a museum. To be administered by and for Native Hawaiians. Estimated cost: \$3 million?

. Community (Grass Roots) Organizing:

There is a need for help in empowering Native Hawaiians to become self-determining and seek their sovereignty. Training programs and networking are critical to such organizing. Funding help for inter-island travel is needed to enable people to participate in training and networking.

Research and organizing is needed to document and watchdog various missionary philanthropies, land holdings, and abuses of sacred sites. The need for a grant-writing capability was also noted to work with local foundations. Of the many trusts in Hawai'i presumably for the benefit of Native Hawaiians, too little gets to the grass roots people.

. Education ^(Densuring) / Awareness / *Hokulani!* ^{Awakening}

There is a need to regain the unique contributions of Native Hawaiian spirituality which is totally integrated into every aspect of one's life. This has been nearly lost by assimilation into western culture and its separation of the sacred and secular. Regaining that spirituality is central to our goals but it also means education in how to advocate, organize and grow in self-determination. Such education includes Native Hawaiian materials for Sunday schools and public schools, Hawaiian language, culture and history teaching.

. Advocacy

Legislative advocacy for redress and Native Hawaiian sovereignty concerns by the Office for Church in Society and for global advocacy by the Board for World Ministries needs to continue.

One specific suggestion was for direct Native Hawaiian representation (rather than through the Pacific Islander, Asian American Ministries--PAAM) on the Council on Racial Ethnic Ministries (COREM) of the United Church of Christ.

. Foundation

A foundation in Hawai'i to provide funds to Native Hawaiians to address Native Hawaiian concerns and issues of sovereignty. It could be a source of funding for the cultural center(s), community organizing, education, and advocacy. It would need to be established in a way that it is administered by Native Hawaiians for Native Hawaiians. No dollar amount is being suggested at this time; possible sources of funding (such as, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church Board for World Ministries, Hawaii Conference/Foundation, others) need to be identified and explored. Preliminary conceptualization of foundation needed.