

I have my thoughts, you have your thoughts, simple for me difficult for you. Simply . . .the reason is . . .I am a Hawaiian and I've inherited the soul of my kupuna. It is my moral responsibility to attempt an ending to this desecration of our sacred aina, Kohe Malamalama o Kanaloa, for each bomb dropped adds further injury to an already wounded soul.

The truth is, there is man and there is environment. One does not supercede the other. The breath in man is the breath of Papa (the earth). Man is merely caretaker of the land that maintains his life, and nourishes his soul. Therefore aina is sacred. The church of life is not in a building, it is the open sky, the surrounding ocean, the beautiful soil. My duty is to protect mother earth, who gives me life. And to give thanks with humility as well as ask forgiveness for the arrogance and insensitivity of man.

What is national defence when what is being destroyed is the very thing the military is entrusted to defend, the sacred land of (Hawaii) America. The spirit of pride is left uncultivated, without truth and without meaning for keiki o ka aina, cut off from the land as a fetus is cut off from his mother. National defense is indefensible in terms of the loss of pride for many of the citizens of Hawaii nei. Call me radical for I refuse to remain idle. I will not have the foreigner prostitute the soul of my being and I will

not make a whore out of my soul (my culture).

All the archaeological discoveries, incredibly, are not enough it seems for the federal government to respect the sacredness of history. This continued disregard of our seriousness, this refusal to give credibility to the Hawaiian culture based on aloha aina, forces me to protest.

Aloha Aina

E mau ko kakou lahui e ho'oulu.

Ho'oulu ka pono o ka 'aina e Ho'oulu

Hoola ka nani o ka 'aina e Ho'oulu

E MAU KE EA O KA 'AINA I KA PONO

- Alvan Issacs Sr.

George

George Helm and Francis Ka'uhane
In care of Congressman Daniel K.
Akaka
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 16, 1977

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are native Hawaiians here in Washington, D.C., not to waste anyone's valuable time, nor do we want anyone of you to waste our time. However, our presence here is as a result of governmental negligence and lack of response to our "plea." We received no response from you even after a telegram was sent to your office from Hawaii on February 2, 1977, requesting to meet with you or any White House member personally. The matter--which is an executive one and not a congressional one--is one of emergency and we ask assistance from the White House to prevent a possible "Wounded Knee" and to look seriously into the souls of our Hawaiian people.

We both have been arrested, along with three others, and are awaiting trial for trespassing on an island considered to be very sacred to Hawaiians; yet it is, by Executive Order, a military reservation used specifically since 1941 by the Department of the Navy as a bombing target and though only a portion is being bombed, the entire island is endangered environmentally and ecologically by Man's lack of concern. The island is 45 square miles, potent with life--it is not a barren rock and the barrenness is in those souls that see it as such. We saw, after walking the entire island, miles of unnecessary erosion--just miles of hard ground with single trees and patches of grass, here and there.

We are not criminals, and our convictions and belief is to protect and perpetuate the righteousness of our land. The real crime is to destroy the life of land and life of Man. Two other native Hawaiians remain hidden on the island to speak loudly their serious concern--yet the Navy continues to drop bombs on the island regardless of the fact that the possibility of injuring and taking away life exists. Regardless of the discoveries by the State's archeological and historical survey team that prove the island's historical

The President
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treasures and value, the desecration continues. Regardless of the fact that Hawaiians know of a population of farm people once living on the island, the Navy sees the land as useless. The tradition of our people has been taken away by progress and money interest and continues to be so as there is neglect. We are a dying race, an endangered specie, and we cannot allow further injury to an already wounded soul.

We have vowed to protect the remnants of our culture at whatever cost, and the culture cannot exist without the land. What is essential to know is that we are dealing with National Security and the interest of the people. Only one Congressman turned his ears to us, because he is a native Hawaiian and he understands the language. We come before you not to lay any useless rhetoric on you, but to have you see the seriousness of matter. It is your duty, Mr. President, to listen to the plea of a neglected people.

We are native Americans too. What must we do to hear from you?

Aloha,

PROTECT KAHOOLAWE OHANA


George Helm


Francis Ka'uhane

COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS
1300 Halona Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

February 17, 1977

The Honorable Thomas B. Ross
Assistant Secretary-Designate
Department of Defense
2E800 Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss the problem of Kahoolawe island.

We respectfully request your response to the following questions:

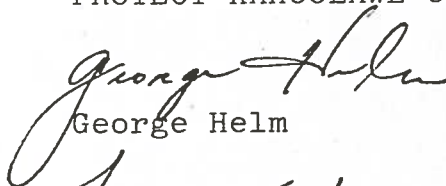
1. Would the Department of Defense be amenable to a 60-day suspension of bombing of Kahoolawe island and the appointment of an impartial responsible person to investigate the justice of our plea to preserve the island as a Hawaiian historic site?
2. Are there possible solutions, such as selection of an alternative naval bombing site, which would serve the interests of National Security while protecting Kahoolawe island from desecration?

Finally, we regret that you were unable to arrange a brief meeting for us this week with the Secretary of the Navy; given the urgency of the situation, we respectfully ask your assistance in arranging such a meeting as soon as possible.

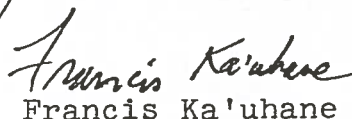
Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

PROTECT KAHOOLAWE OHANA



George Helm



Francis Ka'uhane

Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana
P.O. Box 27823
Honolulu, Hawaii 96827
February 2, 1977

Mr. Ben Bradlee, Editor,
and the National Affairs Desk
The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bradlee and Reporters on
the National Affairs Desk:

We are writing to you to bring your attention to a present "invasion" of the target island of Kaho'olawe that is currently underway by native Hawaiians. The United States Navy has suspended bombing of the Island until the Hawaiians can be removed.

As of the above date, three of us who "invaded" the Island have given ourselves up to the U.S. Government and will go on trial for trespass. However, the remaining two, Walter Ritte and Richard Sawyer, are still on the Island. They intend to stay there indefinitely to protest the bombing of the Island and its desecration. To us native Hawaiians, the evidence has become very clear that the Island is sacred. It lies at the end of the Long Voyages between Hawaii and the islands of Tahiti and other southern Islands which our ancestors came from. There are numerous heiaus (temples) and koas (fishing shrines) that still remain on the Island, and these are being destroyed by the Navy.

President Carter can stop this destruction of the Island-- and of the native culture of Hawaii--by rescinding Executive Order 10436, allowing the Navy to bomb, and by returning the Island to the native Hawaiians. Messrs. Ritte and Sawyer intend to stay on the Island to achieve this goal, and other Hawaiians are preparing to join them. Meanwhile the Navy is embarked on an elaborate man-hunt to find them; they will not give up easily.

We are enclosing current newspaper clippings which tell you of what is happening in Hawaii right now in this confrontation between native Hawaiians and the U.S. Navy. We have just sent a telegram to President Carter asking him to meet with us on this problem. Remembering the coverage you gave the Culebra issue a few years ago, we hope that you will find what is happening now in Hawaii to be worthy of national coverage. It is only a small part of the revival of Hawaiians' consciousness, symbolized by the Hokulea, which the National Geographic Society filmed.

P.S. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to call us at 808 841-5961.

Sincerely and aloha,


George Helm
President, Protect/Kaho'olawe
Ohana

Official Statement: Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

Feb. 1, 1977

Five young men have landed on Kaho'olawe to force the military to end its desecration of a very sacred part of Hawaii nei. The five signify laulima, hands working together to make green and growing the 'aina that maintains our body and nourishes our soul. The barrenness of Kaho'olawe exists in the parched hearts and aching souls of man.

Water has been buried on previous landings and provisions selected to last indefinitely. This act of civil disobedience is committed with full responsibility and cognizance of the consequences. There is legal law, which is being broken in the occupation, however, the military is raping papa, or mother earth, commits the larger crime. It is the arrogance of the military, the power lust of politicians and the greed of the businessmen that violates moral law.

The four events which demanded our response are:

1. The refusal to give credibility to the living culture of Hawaii by the State Historical Preservation group by their failure to acknowledge kama'aina witnesses.

2. The recent archaeological findings of the latest survey of Kaho'olawe confirming and documenting her significance.

3. The proposal by MacNaughton to sell part of Lanai in place of rehabilitating Kaho'olawe.

4. The statement, on Jan 27, by adm. Maurice Weisner, of the Navy's intention to continue the bombing.

THE HONORABLE
JIMMY CARTER
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

UNITED STATES NAVY HAS SUSPENDED BOMBING OF TARGET ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA HERE IN HAWAII BECAUSE OF OUR INVASION. TWO NATIVE HAWAIIANS WALTER RITTE AND RICHARD SAWYER REMAIN ON THIS ISLAND SACRED TO US HAWAIIANS AND WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY IT UNTIL BOMBING OF OUR HEIAUS (SHRINES) AND DESTRUCTION OF OUR CULTURE IS PERMANENTLY STOPPED.

AS PRESIDENT YOU HAVE AUTHORITY TO RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER 10436 ALLOWING BOMBING. AS NATIVE HAWAIIANS WE INVADED KAHO'OLAWA TO PROTEST THIS DESECRATION. WE HAVE VOLUNTARILY RETURNED TO HONOLULU TO TELL THE WORLD DETERMINATION OF RITTE AND SAWYER TO REMAIN ON KAHO'OLAWA. OTHER HAWAIIANS ARE NOW PREPARING TO JOIN THEM IN THIS INVASION.

WE NATIVE HAWAIIANS WANT YOU TO HEAR OUR VOICES. CONTINUOUS DISREGARD OF OUR SERIOUS INTENTION HAS FORCED US TO TAKE THIS ACTION. WE ASK TO MEET WITH YOU PERSONALLY TO DISCUSS THIS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL SITUATION, ALONG WITH CONGRESSMAN DANIEL AKAKA THE COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PROTECT KAHO'OLAWA OHANA. WE AWAIT YOUR RESPONSE AT PHONE NUMBER (808) 841-5961. WE CANNOT UNDERSTATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS SITUATION.

WITH RESPECT,

GEORGE HELM
FRANCIS KA'UHANE
CHARLES WARRINGTON

Why is Kaho'olawe so important to people in Hawaii? In an island community, land is very scarce and very precious. To Hawaiians, the "aina" (land) is a sacred thing to be nurtured and respected. This attitude is captured in the State's official motto, "UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO", -- "THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS." The destruction of Kaho'olawe, through bombing and other military uses is thus an affront to the sacred values of the Hawaiian people.

Kaho'olawe has also become a symbol of the way in which the military has treated the natives of Hawaii. Taken without compensation during WW II's period of martial law, the island has been held despite years of official and unofficial protests. Today, the Navy casually disregards not only Hawaiian rights, but also people's lives, by continuing to bomb despite the current political protests. The love of the aina moves the Hawaiian people to tears, and has called forth a willingness to suffer and to take risks to stop the destruction of Kaho'olawe. We ask you to respect the roots of the Hawaiian people and join us in seeking an end to the bombing and a return of Kaho'olawe to Hawaiian control.

YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT KAHO'OLAWA:

- 1) If you are involved in any activities which support the continued destruction of Kaho'olawe, or the legal retaliation against activists, you can request a transfer to other duties. Whether you are a pilot, an ammunition worker, a mechanic, or a clerk, you can make your support for Kaho'olawe felt by refusing to participate further.
- 2) Contact your representatives in Washington and ask that they support a Congressional ban against further military action on Kaho'olawe. If you need help in writing, call American Friends Service Committee (988-6266) or catholic Action of Hawaii/Peace Education Project (949-1210).
- 3) Learn more about the meaning of Kaho'olawe and the Hawaiian's demand for recognition and respect by contacting AFSC or catholic Action.
- 4) Sign and return the petition about Kaho'olawe (printed below) directly to President Carter, The White House, Washington, D.C.

PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RETURN OF
THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA TO THE HAWAI'I PEOPLE

WHEREAS the Island of Kaho'olawe has a significant place in the History, Culture, and Religion of the Native Hawaiian people and,
WHEREAS the use of Kaho'olawe as a bombing target by the United States Navy is causing permanent and irreparable damage to the island's soil, coral reefs, and archeological sites and
WHEREAS Kaho'olawe is no longer a necessary part of our National Defense Structure,
THEREFORE, we the undersigned hereby petition the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America, to rescind Executive Order 10436 and return Kaho'olawe to the Hawai'i people.

(Name)

(Signature)

(Address)

George Helm and Francis Ka'uhane
Council of Hawaiian Organizations
1300 Malona Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

February 17, 1977

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully request a cessation of the bombing of the sacred island of Kahoolawe and an investigation by the White House of the justice of our position.

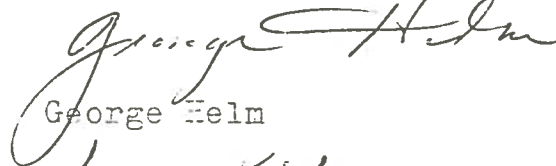
Specifically, we ask that the bombing be suspended for 60 days while a delegate of the President (and not of the Defense Department, which is a party to this dispute) investigate the situation and determine the importance of a permanent bombing halt.

Finally, once you have determined the justice of our plea, we ask that you rescind Executive Order 10435 which has allowed the Navy to bomb and desecrate our island.

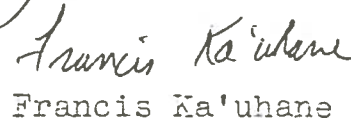
We thank you for your consideration and your attention to the concerns of native Americans and their traditions.

Aloha,

PROTECT KAHOOLOAWE CHINA



George Helm



Francis Ka'uhane

PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE RETURN OF THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA TO

THE HAWAI'I PEOPLE

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WHEREAS Kaho'olawe is no longer a necessary part of our National Defense Structure,

THEREFORE, we the undersigned citizens of the State of Hawaii hereby petition the Honorable Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America to rescind Executive Order 10436 and to return Kaho'olawe to the Hawai'i people.

NAME

ADDRESS

- | <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>The Rev. Abraham K. Akaka</u> | <u>The Rev. Abraham K. Akaka</u> |
| 2. <u>While believing that the defense of our nation is necessary, and with all due respect to our U.S. Navy, I believe also that the time already has come when more sophisticated bombing techniques make no longer important the use of Kaho'olawe as a bombing-practice site. Space Exploration has exhibited highly successful use of simulation as a training technique, which techniques no doubt can be applied to the necessities of training for modern warfare.</u> | <u>While believing that the defense of our nation is necessary, and with all due respect to our U.S. Navy, I believe also that the time already has come when more sophisticated bombing techniques make no longer important the use of Kaho'olawe as a bombing practice site. Space exploration has exhibited highly successful use of simulation as a training technique, which techniques no doubt can be applied to the necessities of training for modern warfare.</u> |
| 3. <u>Kaho'olawe is part of our Roots -- and should be restored in a manner commensurate to its meaning to our aboriginal people -- as a place of religious and cultural heritage and value.</u> | <u>Kaho'olawe is part of our Roots -- and should be restored in a manner commensurate to its meaning to our aboriginal people -- as a place of religious and cultural heritage and value.</u> |
| 4. <u>Since jurisdiction over the island, I understand, belongs to our State rather than Federal powers, petition for future use as a historic site should be directed to State authorities. With deep Aloha to our beloved U.S. Navy, and the hope that this matter can be resolved in a way that leaves our Hawaiian heritage respected and perpetuated, I remain,</u> | <u>Since jurisdiction over the island, I understand, belongs to our state rather than Federal powers, petition for future use as a historic site should be directed to State authorities. With deep Aloha to our beloved U.S. Navy and the hope that this matter can be resolved in a way that leaves our nation better defended, and our Hawaiian heritage respected and perpetuated, I remain,</u> |
| 5. <u>The Rev. Abraham K. Akaka</u> | <u>The Rev. Abraham K. Akaka</u> |

NOTE: Please return by February 13, 1977 to:

Project Kaho'olawe Ohana
P.O. Box 27823
Chinatown Station
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 2, 1977

Mr. George Helm, President
Protect Kahoolawe Association
P. O. Box 27823
Chinatown Station
Honolulu, Hawaii 96827

Dear Mr. Helm:

I introduced a bill, S. 221, on January 14, 1977 which seeks a one-year pilot project to clear a portion of Kahoolawe Island of unexploded ordnance and debris. I wish to bring this to your attention with the sincere hope you will support my efforts to pass this important legislation.

Clearing a portion of Kahoolawe would be a significant step towards the eventual rehabilitation of the entire Island. The bill provides for State and Navy consultation in two key areas; one, the determination of the parcel of land to be cleared; and two, the later use of the cleared parcel.

I have attempted to incorporate findings of a recent study of Kahoolawe which reported the feasibility of clearing the Island in about six years with available technology and manpower. The study, in addition to surveying each target site and collecting hard data on ordnance dispersion and cost-per-acre estimates, recommended that the Navy first undertake a pilot project to test the approach of the longer-range clearance plans.

I consider the bill I have introduced with Senator Matsunaga a realistic attempt to pass meaningful Kahoolawe legislation in this Congress. It is too early to forecast the chances of gaining sufficient widespread support for this bill to assure passage.

Please find enclosed for your information a reprint of the bill and my floor statement. I appreciate your concern about Kahoolawe and hope we may work together to resolve this serious issue.

Alfa


DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:jmpl
ENCLOSURE

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 221. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to set aside and clear a certain portion of the island of Kahoolawe, Hawaii, as a pilot project to determine the feasibility and cost factors of clearing the entire island and surrounding waters of naval ordnance which is on such island and in such waters as the result of such island being used as a target range; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am today introducing a bill affecting Kahoolawe Island, one of the eight major islands in the Hawaiian chain. For more than 35 years, Kahoolawe has been the site of aerial bombing and ship-to-shore target practice, conducted primarily by the U.S. Navy as part of its general training exercises.

This island has the dubious distinction of being one of the most bombed islands in the Pacific. I am concerned about this island, not so much because its somewhat limited resources are being destroyed by the Navy's live ammunition practices, but rather because the island is no more than 8 miles off the coast of a fast-developing population center on the island of Maui. The threat to the lives and property of the Maui residents is very real and warrants the concern of my distinguished colleagues in the Congress.

The bill I introduce today would direct the Navy to conduct a pilot project to clear a portion of the island within a year and to report back to the appropriate congressional committees about the project results.

I see this legislation as a significant step toward the eventual clearance of the entire 45-square-mile island of unexploded bombs and other ordnance and debris. And I expect this bill to pave the way for the eventual transfer of a revitalized Kahoolawe from the U.S. Government to the State of Hawaii.

It is true that there are other areas within the territorial boundaries of the

United States used for similar military training purposes, but Kahoolawe is different from these locales. The State of Hawaii retains residential rights over Kahoolawe since it formerly owned the island; subject only to "temporary" military exigencies enumerated in the Executive order reserving use of the island to the U.S. Government. Furthermore, because of the close proximity of Kahoolawe to Maui, the second largest island, subject only to temporary long complained of the effects of aerial and shore bombardment. Finally, Kahoolawe was once usable for other purposes. It is now rapidly being destroyed and rendered unfit for human habitation. This erosion is an unforgivable waste in a State where land is at a premium.

In the last three Congresses, I introduced measures that would have transferred Kahoolawe back to the State of Hawaii and that would have authorized moneys needed to clear the island of ordnance now estimated at over 10,000 tons. The bill met stiff opposition by the Navy Department in each Congress and most probably would have no hope for survival in this Congress as well.

The measure I now propose incorporates recent findings of a year-long study of Kahoolawe by the Navy Department, the most significant of which was the feasibility of clearing 90 percent of the land to a depth of 4½ feet in about 6 years. Prior to the study, the Navy made repeated claims that clearance of the island—to an extent feasible for human habitation—was impossible.

I succeeded in inserting a directive to the Navy in the 1975 military construction appropriations bill to conduct the 1-year study so that cost estimates of clearing Kahoolawe could be made for the first time. The Navy did a thorough and commendable study—one which I have found instructive.