

## KAU INOA *E Nānā I Ke Kumu: From the Grass Roots to a Strong, Healthy Tree*

As Kau Inoa registrations approach the 100,000 mark, it's time for us to start the conversation about how we move towards realizing our nation.

First, let's understand where we are – which is, at best, fragmented. There are several groups working at different levels for Hawaiian rights and entitlements, but rarely do these groups join forces to work together. Local efforts do not always dovetail with statewide efforts, national efforts, or even international efforts. Instead of presenting a unified front on all these levels and understanding how each contributes to the others, groups bicker about priorities and responsibilities. Decisions are made with only part of the information, and can only have part of their hoped-for impact. As long as we remain fragmented, all efforts we make are band-aids. The familiar 'ōlelo no'ēau, *e nānā i ke kumu – look to the source*, can guide us in governance; we have to know the whole picture in order to see the source of our struggles and address them.

Picture our nation as a tree. We were

once a flourishing Kingdom that, due to many internal and external events, was finally cut down. We, those Hawaiians who remain, are survivors! Think of our resilience, considering our history. In the past thirty years, we have seen an incredible expansion of our roots: Hula, mele, oli, language, education, sports, martial arts, navigation, hana no'ēau, healing, agriculture, and aquaculture.

But, we still have needs that have persisted despite all the programs and services trying to meet them. Our tree is still a stump. In order to realize the full, healthy tree we wish for, we need to change our focus. Instead of talking about the reasons our tree is not growing, we must talk about what we want the full leafy canopy to look like – what is the ideal quality of life for every Hawaiian?

*Ho'oulu Lāhui Aloha* is about making the connection from the roots to the leaves. As we build our Nation, we build the trunk to support the canopy. The reason you are so important is because we need Hawaiians registered

at the grass roots level who can help us achieve that vision.

At one Coffee Hour, a woman demanded: "Draw me a picture of where I am, in the end, on that tree." Hawaiian people are referred to in song as *nā pua*, the flowers. Once we have a nation, each citizen is a flower. Within each citizen are the seeds for a tree of her own, full of possibility that only she can see and she can create. Ideally, our Nation will support each *pua* so that it is able to germinate and grow to its full potential – personally, within the family, and within society at each level – to achieve the ideal life that we have defined. In other words, what do you want the picture of you to look like?

Many Hawaiians wonder, "There have been so many sovereignty efforts before. What will keep us from failing this time?" If we remain focused on the wellbeing of each *pua* and the fruit that it will bear, we will draw up through our roots the resources we need to realize our vision. *E nānā kākou i ke kumu* – if together we can envision the full tree, that will be a start. ▾

## KAU INOA Q&A

Kau Inoa depends on you to spread the word about this step of the nation building process. Your questions and concerns are important! The following question was posed to Hawaiian Governance staff at a recent Coffee Hour on Maui:

**Q:** *If we are registered in one Hawaiian program, shouldn't we be recognized in others (DHHL, KS, OHA)? Why don't the different*

*programs share information?*

**A:** Different Hawaiian institutions keep registries for their specific needs, which vary according to the programs and services these institutions provide. Registries are kept confidential in order to protect the privacy of Hawaiians who are registered. Kau Inoa cooperates with DHHL, Kamehameha Schools, and OHA to make it easier for Hawaiians to verify their ancestry. By marking



*Guests enjoy the presentation and discussion at a Coffee Hour in Kula, Maui.*

the appropriate box and initialing, you allow Kau Inoa to verify that you are listed on the specified registry and therefore have already verified your Hawaiian ancestry. ▾

193,106

84,935

# KAU INOA

TO BUILD A NATION

Assist in registering your 'ohana and friends in Kau Inoa by contacting

**Hawai'i Maoli**  
(808) 394-0050

**OHA**  
(808) 594-1888  
1-800-366-1758

**KAU INOA ONLINE**  
[www.kauinoa.org](http://www.kauinoa.org)

**Hawai'i Maoli**  
[www.hawaiiimaoli.org](http://www.hawaiiimaoli.org)

**OHA**  
[www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org)

**"Hili hewa ka mana'o ke 'ole ke kükäkükä."  
Ideas run wild without discussion. Discussion brings ideas together into a plan.  
-Ölelo No'eau**

**K**au Inoa gives every Hawaiian a voice and a choice as to how we shape our future as a people. As we begin rebuilding our nation, we'd like to hear your voices and stir up some discussion. Every month, we'll be asking for your feedback to share with other registrants in the newsletter. If you have a suggestion for a topic, feel free to send your suggestion to the email or snail mail address below.


### The Hawaiian Quality of Life

Quality of life includes things from diet, health, shelter, education, and emotional stability, to things like financial and political stability and personal freedoms. The Hawaiian quality of life must be determined according to our values. For example, traditionally Native Hawaiian wellbeing is directly connected to the wellbeing of the land, so, in the context of a Hawaiian quality of life, we might want to address

our relationship to the land.

Let's talk about the ideal life we'd like to see for every Hawaiian individual and Hawaiian family, rippling out to Hawaiian communities and the whole Hawaiian nation.

What's your ideal Hawaiian quality of life?

Send your response, including your name and contact information, to: [hla@oha.org](mailto:hla@oha.org), or HLA c/o OHA, 711 Kapi'olani Blvd., Ste. 500, Honolulu 96813. 

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is currently accepting invitations to present the Ho'oulu Lahui Aloha draft plan. If you, your 'ohana and your community are interested in learning more about the nation-building process and the positive implications of building a Native Hawaiian Governing Entity, please call OHA toll-free today.

<b>From Hawai'i:</b>	1-808-974-4000	Ext. 40219
<b>From Kawa'i:</b>	1-808-274-3141	Ext. 40219
<b>From the U.S. Continent:</b>	1-800-366-1758	
<b>O'ahu</b>	(808) 594-1888	(808) 594-0219
<b>From Maui:</b>	1-808-984-2400	Ext. 40219

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# HO'OU\_LU LAHUI ALOHA



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