Hawai`i National Transitional Authority

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 A Divided Nation because of a Divisive Question: Do you support an independent Hawaiian nation or a Federally recognized Hawaiian nation within the United States?

 It is time we cracked that question open and removed its divisive aspect, “or”, and replace it with a unifying “and.”

 A "nation divided against itself cannot stand" from Abraham Lincoln who may have borrowed it from biblical writings, and another about ending the "Alamihi Syndrome" of crabs pulling one another down as they try to climb out of the bucket which entraps them, from Prince Jonah Kuhiō Kalaniana`ole, who may have borrowed the idea from native Americans or vice versa.

 Imagine our strength simply by unifying a common love of Hawaii.

 This transitional authority movement is aimed to help this unity come to being.  We recognize our disagreements but see that our unity is greater.  Let us support one another.

 Many have meandered within the colonial system and successfully "Walked the Crooked Path Straight" having to play along with the lie of the legitimacy of U.S. jurisdiction over Hawai`i. Kokua them.  We see professionals in high places such as in governmental positions, in the education system, in finance and banking, health care, etc.  While in those systems, many are trying to move the systems into directions which support eventual decolonization and driving to pono, forging new approaches to governance and creating places and spaces for Hawaiian nationals and native Hawaiians.  They are working for new concepts in education moving away from "school to work" mantra and elevating the importance of character development; ecological foundations; and maintaining our national consciousness via history, language, art, spirituality; integrating natural medicine in Health care; developing an Aloha economy pono to all Hawai`i. Their work is just as much a part of the transition that we are all working for as those who are out-front political advocates calling for justice and decolonization. E huki like kakou e na Hawai`i loa.

 There is a need for a renewed effort to "huki like" from all sides of the conversation and positions of Hawaiian decolonization. The HNTA is an effort to instigate, support, provide a venue and create many more venues in which a common belief that Hawaii does have a right to Self-Determination would be created. That common belief is more important to support than to divide our house over specific details of how, who, when, where and why.  We encourage everyone to join discussions and find common areas of support of one another, whether under this or any other organization, hui, association, etc.

 Many of us have experience in the Hawaiian self-determination movement, some adamant on independence **NOW** while others taking an approach of building toward a "practical" experience of independence with as little injury as possible sometime in the future.  This difference has often been expressed mistakenly by the use of the term "or" rather than "and."

We have great reasons to support our various positions, whether it is for immediate decolonization or for "Federal Recognition" and protecting the existing entitlements now protected by U.S. laws, i.e., Hawaiian Homes programs, status of Kamehameha Schools, preservation of OHA, special scholarship and library funds, etc.  We are keen to find and focus on our differences rather than celebrate our commonalities.  We continue to allow the "or" term to divide us rather than the inclusive "and."  We have seen families disagreeing, social clubs disagreeing, churches dividing, "friends" losing friendships, even individuals finding a split in their own position and feeling very uncomfortable with themselves!

We have a term which we should take and learn from.  It's a wonderful term called “hapa."  We think nothing of being hapa.  We recognize Barack Obama as being racially Hapa, while in North America he is seen as a black rather than a white man!  In our religious beliefs, we have from members of the same family, Christians, Buddhist, Muslim, Humanist, Atheist, and so on, yet maintain themselves as a family.  And we think nothing of dining on a "mix plate", in fact seeking it out at times.  Why is it that we are innately a people of this "hapa" culture, yet when it comes to this most important subject of self-determination, we remain viciously split in an either/or dichotomy?

We need to change the dynamics of our conversations and our inter-relations with one another.  It's o.k. to disagree, to differ in our opinions, to reach different conclusions based on common facts, to have different visions of the future of Hawaii.  It's far more important to maintain our common aloha among us, rather than to continue a hostile debate and prove ourselves right and the other wrong.  And there is far more debates and areas in which we can reach agreement in building our nation.  Let us employ far more patience, make room for others to join the discussions and share their opinions, and keep an attitude and an open mind so that we can see what is best for ourselves and our nation's future.

 A nation is far more than just the government form, its leadership, its formal laws, its treaties and other international arrangements, etc.  Yet, much of our discussions on the topic of Hawaiian self-determination has been focused on these "governmental" formulations and processes.  And in doing so, many of us have lost sight of what a nation really is.  We have substituted the "top of the iceberg" for the far greater portion of the iceberg that remains submerged.

A nation is not only the "state" in which it formally expresses itself.  A nation is its attitudes toward its natural, cultural, religious, spiritual and political environment.  It is the expression of its "deep culture" and how it uses that deep culture to imbue its educational system, its health system, its economic systems with a sense of "OLA" (`Olu`olu, Lokahi and Aloha) rather than the present society's elevation of a culture of "DIE" (Domination, Individualism, Exclusion).

A nation is the maintenance of the sacred times and sacred places of itself.  It is preserved in its national consciousness, - in its remembrance of its ancient and recent history, of its cultural roots and its shared culture, of its common community dreams for its future.  A nation is the soul, the state or government is its clothing.

As we continue in our conversations of what the Hawaiian nation is and should be, we will find that we have much more in common understanding and will see that our disagreements of the government form is no longer a barrier to the formation of the Hawaiian nation.

So join in this consciousness and renewed conversation of Hawaii’s self-determination wherever and whatever your endeavor may take you.

A hui hou,

Pōkā Laenui