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Unity & Transition Statement

These are critical times for Hawaii and for our people. We are at important cross-roads which can divide or unite us. One path is called United States “Federal Recognition” – an unequal treaty relationship between a colonized dependent race and its colonial master. The other path calls for the formal recognition as an independent nation-state by the U.S. and other world bodies and states.

That divide has caused injury to the Hawaiian national body. It has caused a schism between friends and family, churches and civic organizations. We have seen our communities torn apart with rancor and distrust. We have somehow put aside the right of our people to their freedoms, out of a fear that a choice in one direction may terminate our right of choice in the other.

We have allowed ourselves to be fooled into believing that the choices we make are exclusive to one another. The fact is, the choice**s** we make are not exclusive, indeed our people can choose one or the other, both or neither of these options. We can even choose the unequal treaty option now and the independence option later.

**The domestic laws of a colonial nation cannot extinguish human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples recognized in international law. Under international law, all peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. These rights are not extinguishable.**

**The Native Hawaiian people have a right to choose U.S. recognition, independence, both or neither. Any action taken by a people who are under conditions of occupation and/or colonization are not permanently attached to the people.**

**Our Hawaiian people must remain unified, respecting our difference of opinions but not break the bonds which unite us. Let us set ourselves free from the fantasy of this false separation. Let us be respectful of one another and remain patient and united in our devotion to Hawaiian Sovereignty.**

To move this agenda forward, a Hawaii National Transitional Authority should aid people’s understanding and to help make the transition in relations with the U.S., other international bodies, and the State of Hawaii.