Note 5

Hawaiian Independence Transitional Authority

Much of our discussion on Hawaiian Sovereignty have circulated around generalized positions, either independence from or integration within the U.S.A. Some people have moved beyond those general positions developing frameworks for independence and for integration. But in general, both of these positions have been dealt with separate and apart from one another while the reality is that we are continuously impacted by both. To a large extent we are impacted by the reality of U.S.A. presence in Hawaii, its military influence, its current control over education, banking, media, foreign relations, etc. Yet, there seems to be an ancestral, historical, cultural, and visionary call to a sense of sovereign devotion to our Hawaiian nation, our claim for self-determination, the integrity of the native Hawaiian people in our own homeland. This is the Soul call. We could describe our general condition as one of a split person – Our soul yearns for independence while our body must function within the realities of U.S.A. occupation and colonization.

The Hawaiian Independence Transitional Authority can serve as that bridge to bring our realities into accord with our soul. Through this HITA, we can transition from U.S.A. control over our individual selves as well as our community and national selves, to our Hawaiian selves. Individually, we can bring about a transition from U.S., State of Hawaii, and County (herein U.S.) taxes to financing our own Hawaiian National (herein Hawaii) government, in an orderly fashion. We can switch the jurisdictional exercise by the U.S. to jurisdiction under the Hawaii government. We can begin securing the existing Hawaiian Homes Land department and transition it over to the Hawaiian government, begin to limit the in-migration of people into Hawaii, control the tourism industry and regulate and charge for Hawaiian visas to aid in financing Hawaii. There will be a need to transition our monetary and banking system, our foreign trade, shipping (and eliminate the application of the Jones Act which causes increases in prices in Hawaii), and U.S.A. military use of our lands and waters.

HITA would address both the domestic as well as the international transitioning from the U.S.A. to Hawaii national authority. Those affairs which affect life within the borders of Hawaii will be domestic and those beyond our borders and which also impact affairs within Hawaii will be international. International Relations will address our mail systems, tourism and international trade (including trade with all of America), treaties and conventions, participation in international bodies, embassies and consulates, ocean governance beyond the Hawaiian territorial limits, membership in the United Nations, etc.

Many serious questions will have to be addressed as we uncouple with the United States of America. Among them are transfer of benefits paid in for Social Security, Retirement programs, recognition of education credits, existing contracts between Hawaii and U.S.A. businesses, military shutdowns and uptakes for military associated jobs and businesses, transfer of Hawaii prisoners held in Federal institutions and of U.S.A. prisoners held in Hawaii jails and prisons, transfer of civil, criminal and admiralty jurisdictions over Hawaii domestic affairs, U.S.A. Federal affairs, and international affairs, adoption or transfer of the applicability of laws and how they are to be applied, development of a judiciary and of all of the governmental functions of the Hawaii government.

Questions of who will be engaged and be subject to such transitions, very similar to the question of who will constitute the citizenry of the Hawaiian Nation, will have to be resolved. A clear demarcation of what constitutes the territorial extent of Hawaii, what lands are legitimately U.S.A. owned lands, and the need to distinguish between land ownership and national jurisdiction.

CONCLUSION

Lost in the discussion of Hawaiian sovereignty is a discussion of the bridging from the existing “powers that be” to the Hawaiian nation. This discussion will be never ending unless we begin to construct that bridge, give it authority, and begin negotiating the terms for the transfer of authority. This Hawaiian Independence Transitional Authority will need to be bold, visionary, inclusive, and fearless as this bridge is constructed, to be able to carry the full weight and responsibility of this process of liberation of Hawaii. It will need to work in tandem with the formation of the detailed aspects of the Hawaiian nation as well as with the United States of America and the international community. This development of the HITA is one of the most crucial development to come out of the upcoming convention of Hawaiian delegates in the formation of Hawaiian self-determination.