

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16th Session, April 24 – May 5, 2017
Agenda Item 4: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and its affiliate Nation of Hawai‘i, presented by Brandon Maka‘awa‘awa, Nation of Hawai‘i

Thank you Madame Chair and *aloha* to all delegations. This is a statement by the IITC in conjunction with its affiliate Nation of Hawai‘i.

The UN Declaration preamble is concerned “*that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources,*” and Article 32 recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to “*determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.*”

While we wait for Member States to fulfill their obligations, we must maintain our ancestral lands, preserve our cultures, protect our unique identities and seek solutions for our Peoples. Nation of Hawai‘i developed practical solutions to address many of the common problems we share as First Peoples and Nations and works to defend and restore its social, economic and cultural development. Nation of Hawai‘i utilizes the following strategies:

1. It has worked to achieve economic recognition by developing and implementing the cryptocurrency *Aloha Coin* with the Japanese people. Also, on September 9, 2016, at the First International Indigenous Conference on Taro, Nation of Hawai‘i hosted 38 Indigenous Nations of the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean, and it declared its territory a food sovereignty zone for the restoration and decolonization of its traditional food sources, knowledge and practices;
2. *Pu‘uhonua o Waimānalo* is the only sovereign Hawaiian land base in existence. Nation of Hawai‘i exercises exclusive control over its National lands and makes all decisions without intervention from other political jurisdictions;
3. Nation of Hawai‘i is committed to peaceful coexistence as a sovereign Nation based on its inherent and Treaty rights. It maintains cooperative relations with the State of Hawai‘i and U.S. Federal government and ensures that a strong Hawaiian voice is present in all decision-making. Nation of Hawai‘i also hopes to restore friendly relations with other countries.

Nation of Hawai‘i seeks recognition and protection of Hawaiian National Sovereignty under the U.N. Charter Article 73, the UN Declaration Article 3, and 22 Nation to Nation Treaties with the U.S. and other countries. In 1993, the U.S. apologized for its role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the theft of its National lands and promised to engage in a reconciliation process with the Hawaiian people. However, the U.S. has yet to restore Hawaiian National lands.

We recommend that the Permanent Forum conduct a study on how Sovereign Indigenous Nations exercise and promote their National Sovereignty through traditional and new economic development projects that provide for their Peoples in the absence of adequate State assistance. Nation of Hawai‘i serves as an effective model for Indigenous Nations and Peoples, including those who have not yet achieved formal recognition by their Member States. Nation of Hawai‘i submitted an IPO Questionnaire response and a written report to the UNPFII presenting these and other strategies but these documents were not made public. We are happy to provide copies. *Mahalo.*