

**OHA HOSTED KITV SHOW
 NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT (NHGRA) 2009
 COMMUNITY PANEL – Thursday, January 7, 2010
 8:00p – 9:00pm
 NHGRA QUESTIONS, FROM EMAIL AND PHONE & NOT ANSWERED ON AIR**

Rev. 2/08/10, 1:00pm

	Question	Answer
	<u>Explain the NHGRA bill</u>	
1	<p>Explain in simple terms, what does the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (NHGRA) mean, and what does it do?</p>	<p>The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka bill and the Hawaiian recognition bill, reaffirms the political and legal status of Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of Hawai'i. The bill furthers Native Hawaiian sovereignty and self-determination by establishing a process for the U.S. federal recognition of a reorganized Native Hawaiian governing entity, similar to the process already available for American Indians and Alaska Natives.</p> <p>Under the U.S. Constitution and Federal law, America's indigenous, native people are recognized as political groups that are not defined by reference to race or ethnicity, but by the fact that their ancestors exercised sovereignty over their native lands and areas that subsequently became part of the United States.</p> <p>It is the pre-existing sovereignty of America's indigenous, native people – sovereignty which pre-existed the formation of the United States – which the U.S. Constitution and federal law recognizes and on that basis, accords a special political status to America's indigenous, native people.</p> <p>Federal recognition of a representative Native Hawaiian governing entity affords Native Hawaiians the opportunity to enter into a government-to-government relationship with the United States.</p> <p>Thus, the bill provides a way for the Native Hawaiian governing entity to enter into formal discussions with the U.S. government and the State of Hawai'i. A federally recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity can give formal expression to Native Hawaiian self-determination and sovereignty within the context of federal law. A U.S. federally recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity can better protect our distinct culture, language and institutions, reconcile past wrongs and resolve problems facing the distinct Native Hawaiian community.</p>

2	How can we get a copy of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act to read?	Go to www.THOMAS.loc.gov or www.oha.org or www.NativeHawaiians.com . Review S 1011 (Substitute Amendment) that passed out of Senate Committee on Indian Affairs December 17, 2009, and HR 2314 (as originally introduced) that passed out of House Committee on Natural Resources on December 16, 2009. Contact your U.S. Senator or Representative and ask them to mail a copy. Contact the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at 808.594.1888 and we will mail you a copy.
3	What country will the bill represent as a government, U.S. or Hawaiian Kingdom? Who is in control?	<p>The bill occurs within the context of the United States Constitution in a process extended to Native Hawaiians by the U.S. Congress. When the bill becomes law the distinct Native Hawaiian community will have a way to express its self-determination through a formal government-to-government relationship within the U.S. similar to what is already in place for Alaska Natives and American Indians.</p> <p>The form of the reorganized Native Hawaiian governing entity will be determined by Native Hawaiians who choose to participate in the process.</p>
4	Does the bill imply Native Hawaiians are American Indians or Eskimos, or does it recognize Native Hawaiians are distinct with their own country?	<p>The bill does not turn Native Hawaiians into Alaska Natives or American Indians or a “tribe.” The bill makes it clear through formal public policy that Native Hawaiians, similar to American Indians and Alaska Natives, are a distinct indigenous, native, aboriginal people whose ancestors exercised sovereignty over their native lands and areas that subsequently became part of the United States. Similar to what is already in place for American Indians and Alaska Natives, the bill reaffirms the political and legal status of Native Hawaiians, and establishes a process for Native Hawaiians to express their sovereignty and resume a government-to-government relationship with the U.S. and the state of Hawai’i within the U.S.</p> <p>The bill clearly states when the bill becomes law, it does not make Native Hawaiians eligible for American Indian and Alaska Native programs to which they are not already eligible for under the law.</p>
5	Is the Akaka Bill a form of surrender?	No. It provides a process of self-determination within federal law, and reaffirms the political status of the distinct Native Hawaiian community. It moves U.S. policy toward parity in its treatment of the three groups of Native Americans within the 50 states, American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian. It is a way to stop the erosion of resources, rights and programs that is already in progress.
6	What is meant by Qualified Native Hawaiian Constituent?	In S 1011 Substitute Amendment, “Qualified Native Hawaiian Constituents” are Native Hawaiians who identify themselves as part of the distinct Native Hawaiian community, who are eligible, as described in the bill, to be included on the roll, or formal, verified listing of Native Hawaiians to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity and seek federal recognition.

		<p>In addition to the requirement that a constituent is a direct lineal descendent of the aboriginal, indigenous native people who resided in the islands that now comprise the State of Hawai'i on or before January 1, 1893, or is one of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii eligible in 1921 for HHCA, or a direct lineal descendent of that individual, the substitute delineates additional requirements for those who would like to participate in the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian governing entity. Participants in the reorganization must certify they maintain a significant cultural, social, or civic connection to the Native Hawaiian community by meeting at least two of ten listed criteria.</p> <p>The additional criteria are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resides in the State of Hawai'i • Resides outside the State and – serves or served in the Armed Forces or as an employee of the federal government (or has a parent or spouse who did so); is or was enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning outside the State of Hawai'i, and resided in the State of Hawai'i before leaving the State to attend such institution • Is or was eligible to be a beneficiary of the programs authorized by HHCA, and resides or resided on Hawaiian homelands, or is a child or grandchild of an individual who was eligible to be a beneficiary of HHCA programs and who resides or resided on Hawaiian homelands • Is or was eligible to be a beneficiary of programs authorized by HHCA, • Is a child or grandchild of an individual who was eligible to be a beneficiary of HHCA programs • Resides on kuleana land and is a lineal descendent of original title bearer • Is, or is the child or grandchild of an individual who was a student for at least one year taught through Hawaiian language at a school operated primarily or exclusively for the benefit of Native Hawaiians • A member since September 30, 2009 of at least one Native Hawaiian Membership Organization • A member since September 30, 2009 of at least two Native Hawaiian Membership Organizations • Is regarded as Native Hawaiian and whose mother or father is (or was, if deceased) by the Native Hawaiian community (two sworn affidavits by qualified Native Hawaiian constituents)
7	Does S 1011 Substitute Amendment or HR 2314 provide the recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity sovereignty with no accountability?	No. All has to be in conformance with federal and state laws. Changes can occur after negotiations and agreement among the recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity, the U.S. government and State of Hawai'i, and after changes complete federal or state legislative process as necessary.

8	When will the changes come into effect, the bill becomes law?	There will be no radical changes the day after the NHGRA becomes law. However, a process for Native Hawaiians to seek federal recognition will be authorized and available. Native Hawaiians will be able to seek federal recognition, a special political and legal relationship with the U.S., through a Native Hawaiian government, should the reorganized Native Hawaiian government choose to seek federal recognition. The political and legal status of Native Hawaiians will be reaffirmed by Congress. U.S. policy toward the three groups of indigenous, native peoples in the U.S. (American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians) will have been applied equally once it includes Native Hawaiians.
9	How does S 1011 Substitute Amendment address our current ceded lands settlement dispute with the State?	It will not affect the current settlement dispute with the State because the current settlement is about past due matters, and is not a settlement of all potential or future claims.
10	Some believe S 1011 Substitute Amendment identifies Native Hawaiians as a tribe, for at least some purposes, what are some positive implications of this for all Hawai'i?	The bill does not “turn Native Hawaiians into a Tribe.” However, it is about recognizing the Native Hawaiian governing entity as a native governing entity. The two most important positive aspects of this recognition are: 1) it will further protect programs that have been established for Native Hawaiians, by reaffirming the political status of Native Hawaiians, and 2) it will provide Native Hawaiians a measure of self-determination, allowing Native Hawaiians to make the decisions regarding what is best for our community, rather than having these decisions made by those who are not familiar with our culture and our needs.
11	Will Hawaiians still be citizens of the U.S. after the bill passes?	Yes. Everyone retains their U.S. citizenship after the bill becomes law. Native Hawaiians who participate in the recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity will have a form of dual citizenship. They will retain all of their rights as U.S. citizens and be able to participate as citizens in the native government as well.
12	S 1011 Substitute Amendment confers the Native Hawaiian governing entity with the powers and jurisdiction within the Indian Law model, what are the benefits to Hawai'i to use the Indian Model?	<p>The question suggests that all 562+ federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native governing entities follow a cookie cutter approach or the “Indian Law Model,” but that is misleading. The Hawaiian recognition bill and the 562+ federally recognized native entities are consistent with Indian Law concerning recognition. As is true among different American Indian governing entities and Alaska Natives, within the Indian Law context, accommodations are made to address various circumstances, differences in culture and institutions among the various distinct native communities.</p> <p>Some have raised the following issue relative to Inherent Authority of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, as far as its powers, authority and jurisdictions. This inherent authority includes the right, through its members, to determine the form of government, its membership, the power to operate the native government and carry out internal native responsibilities, and the power to approve or veto the use or</p>

		<p>disposition of native government assets. Once federally recognized, the Native Hawaiian governing entity enters into negotiations with the United States and State of Hawai'i to settle issues such as civil and criminal jurisdiction.</p> <p>Some fear the original bill impedes the ability of the Native Hawaiian governing entity's ability to negotiate, or precludes any chance the federal and state governments will come to the table to negotiate in a timely manner. The original bill language (section 8 (b)(3)) defers the Native Hawaiian governing entity from exercising any aspect of governmental power that is currently exercised by federal or state governments, until the negotiations are complete, and any local, state or federal statutory changes required are complete. Thus, the governing entity <u>may</u> have been precluded from acting in furtherance of traditional laws and justice systems, which includes providing basic services such as caring for the welfare of children, at all, or until a negotiated agreement is in place that allows the opportunity for organized and transparent transition for all Hawai'i.</p> <p>Replicating the process of the Indian Reorganization Act, the substitute amendment vests the Native Hawaiian governing entity with existing powers of native governments while authorizing tribes to negotiate with federal and state officials (section 9(b)(3)). For some, by the Native Hawaiian governing entity having all powers and authorities upfront, and as set out by its members through the organic documents, assures negotiation will take place in a timely manner.</p>
13	<p>Is the NHGRA Constitutional, if Section 2 Findings start out on an improper claim of authority and unjust pretext, including but not limited to commerce and war powers?</p>	<p>The "claim of authority" in Section 2 Findings is not improper or unjust pretext.</p> <p>Yes, the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the authority to recognize and deal with America's indigenous, native people. Congress has exercised that constitutional authority to address the conditions of Native Hawaiians through the enactment of over 160 federal statutes.</p> <p>The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed Congress' authority, including the authority to extend federal recognition to a native government, to terminate the federally-recognized status of a native government, and to restore the federally-recognized status of a native government.</p>

	<u>Self-determination and Sovereignty</u>	
14	What is meant by self-determination?	<p>Native Hawaiians have a right to control their destiny in their homeland, as is available to American Indians and Alaska Natives.</p> <p>The bill furthers self-determination by reaffirming Native Hawaiian political sovereign status and establishing a process of recognition of a Native Hawaiian governing entity. In the context of federal law, Hawaiian self-determination is furthered through a government-to-government relationship between the recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity and the United States.</p> <p>Today, Native Hawaiian assets, heritage and culture are under legal attack. By forming a governing entity, Native Hawaiians will have a collective voice and greater political strength that can be used to protect lands and trusts. As Native Hawaiians, it is our kuleana (responsibility) to do everything we can to preserve and perpetuate our culture for future generations.</p> <p>Having a U.S. recognized governing entity enter into a formal government-to-government relationship will provide Native Hawaiians protection and authority under federal law to chart their course for the future, control their assets, and direct their resources to improve their socio-economic conditions.</p>
15	Please define sovereignty.	<p>In Hawaiian, “ea” means life, breath and sovereignty. Hawai’i’s motto from the Kingdom era to present statehood is “Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono,” the life of the land is preserved in righteousness.</p> <p>There are various definitions of sovereignty under United states and International law.</p> <p>Hawaiians were a sovereign people for centuries until their government was overthrown with the participation of the United States in 1893. Many Hawaiians today seek to restore their right to self-determination in the form of a governing entity that would co-exist with the state and federal governments.</p> <p>Hawaiian recognition in the form of federal legislation acknowledges the inherent right of indigenous, Native Hawaiians to self-determination and self-governance. The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act seeks to preserve this option for Hawai’i’s indigenous, native people.</p>

16	Proclamation 3309 (Eisenhower) granted equal footing – What is the difference between that and the Akaka bill? Our inherent sovereignty should have been recognized already.	Proclamation 3309 granted the State of Hawaii equal footing with the other States of the Union, admitting Hawai'i as part of the United States. The Akaka bill leads to the United States government's recognition of the Native Hawaiian people's right to self-determination.
17	Are you saying that the people of Hawai'i don't already have sovereignty at all? Will the bill make us a sovereign state?	<p>The sovereign status of Native Hawaiians, and American Indians and Alaska Natives exists already. Therefore the bill does not confer sovereignty.</p> <p>The bill affirms the political and legal status of Native Hawaiians, and Native Hawaiian sovereignty within the parameters of federal law through a government-to-government relationship with the United States.</p>
<u>Type of Government</u>		
18	After the NHGRA becomes law, what kind of governance is planned?	The kind of governance will be determined by the Native Hawaiians who participate in the roll to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity within the parameters of federal law.
19	Given some believe there are over 120 Hawaiian entities, which Hawaiian entity would rule if the bill becomes law?	The Native Hawaiians who seek to participate in the reorganization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity and are verified for to be listed on the roll, will determine the form of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.
<u>Who can participate?</u>		
20	What is the definition of Hawaiian as used in the NHGRA?	<p>Native Hawaiian is defined as follows in HR 2314. Native Hawaiian' means--</p> <p>(i) an individual who is 1 of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii and who is a direct lineal descendant of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who--</p> <p>(I) resided in the islands that now comprise the State of Hawaii on or before January 1, 1893; and</p> <p>(II) occupied and exercised sovereignty in the Hawaiian archipelago, including the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii; or</p> <p>(ii) an individual who is 1 of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii and who was eligible in 1921 for the programs authorized by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42) or a direct lineal descendant of that individual.</p> <p>Native Hawaiian is not defined in S 1011 Substitute Amendment. The term, "Qualified Native Hawaiian</p>

		Constituent” is used in S 1011 Substitute Amendment to define those that may participate on the roll to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity. For more information, refer to Q & A # 6 above.
21	What limitations will there be on kicking people out, to prevent membership from becoming a weapon against political dissent?	One of the inherent powers of a sovereign entity is the authority to determine its own membership. These limitations, if any, will be determined by the Native Hawaiian people who participate on the roll to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity.
22	When bill passes and becomes law, how much Hawaiian required if not 50%, or is participation open to all Native Hawaiians?	<p>Neither version of the bill specifies an amount of Native Hawaiian blood as far as who can participate in the roll to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity, or citizenship.</p> <p>However, both bills currently require verification of Hawaiian ancestry to specific points in time, rather than documentation verifying Native Hawaiian ancestry. Documentation verifying Native Hawaiian ancestry, regardless of point in time, is consistent with the definition of Native Hawaiians in the Apology Resolution as well as the vast majority Congressional measures concerning Native Hawaiians since 1910. There is concern requiring Hawaiians to trace their lineage to specific points in time may be a significant barrier to Native Hawaiians who seek to participate in reorganization of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.</p> <p>Those Native Hawaiians who seek and qualify to participate in the roll will vote on governance or organic documents that will determine citizenship.</p>
23	Won't the criteria for participation in the roll, as found in section 6 of S 1011, allow non-Hawaiians to participate in the roll?	No. Both S 1011 Substitute Amendment and HR 2314 require that those participating in the roll to reorganize the Native Hawaiian governing entity be the lineal descendents of the indigenous, native, aboriginal people who occupied and exercised sovereignty in the Hawaiian archipelago that later became part of the United States.
24	Will non-Hawaiians have a chance to become citizens of the Hawaiian nation?	Under the Hawaiian recognition bill, membership, or citizenship, in the Native Hawaiian governing entity will be determined by Native Hawaiians verified to participate on the roll.

	Impact	
25	How will passage of S 1011 impact Hawai'i's economy?	<p>Combining Hawaiian assets and strengthening Hawaiian economic contributions to resolve current problems helps all state taxpayers.</p> <p>The bill protects Hawaiian culture that is so vital to our island life style and values that are shared with our visitors. It further shields assets, programs and cultural practices against false accusations, misunderstanding and detrimental results of mean-spirited litigation.</p> <p>Some seventy million dollars a year in federal funds flow into Hawai'i for Native Hawaiian health, education, economic development, historic and cultural preservation, affordable housing, and employment training.</p>
26	How much autonomy will Native Hawaiians have in administering any aid that might result in the passage of this bill?	<p>The bill affords further protection for federal programs already established by Congress and enacted for Native Hawaiians, including programs focused on health, education, job training and vocational education, economic development and small business, housing and community development, protection of cultural rights and traditions and museums. The bill does not confer aid for services.</p> <p>Through a recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity, Native Hawaiians with our unique culture, values, history, assets and institutions can focus on solving problems specific to Native Hawaiians.</p>
27	How will the bill affect Native Hawaiians? Will our keiki face the same problems we are facing now?	<p>There will be fairness in U.S. policy toward Hawaiians. A process of U.S. recognition is already available to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and enactment extends a similar process to Native Hawaiians.</p> <p>The bill seeks to improve the quality of life of Native Hawaiians including keiki.</p> <p>Protection of Native Hawaiian culture, as well as existing Native Hawaiian rights, trusts, assets and programs for future generations.</p> <p>Through a recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity, Native Hawaiians with our unique culture, values, history, assets and institutions can focus on solving problems specific to Native Hawaiians.</p>
28	What does the bill do to improve educational opportunities in the future for Hawaiians?	<p>Safeguards Native Hawaiian trusts and federal and state funds focused on Native Hawaiian education programs, and increases opportunities for Native Hawaiians to address longstanding educational challenges through a government-to-government relationship with the state and federal governments to strengthen Hawai'i's public, private and charter schools system to better serve our Hawaiian community and all Hawai'i.</p>

29	What does enactment of bill into law mean for Native Hawaiians who do not want to participate in the Native Hawaiians governing entity?	<p>These individuals will not be impacted. Whether you are a member of the recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity or not, you will continue to have your U.S. citizenship or state residency. Should the Hawaiian recognition bill become law, Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians alike will keep their U.S. citizenship and all responsibilities and benefits, including social security, Medicare, VA benefits, and Hawai'i state residency.</p> <p>Should a Native Hawaiian government be formed and enter into a relationship of federal recognition with the U.S., the provisions of the U.S. Constitution will still apply to the Native Hawaiian government and all rights protected and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution will apply to the citizens of the Native Hawaiian government. Those who are not citizens of the Native Hawaiian government continue to have all rights protected and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Hawai'i residents would continue to be residents of the State of Hawai'i.</p>
<u>Claims, Negotiations, Civil-Criminal Jurisdiction</u>		
30	Assuming a dependent, relationship with the U.S. is a good thing, how can one go in to negotiations with an empty hand?	Native Hawaiians are not going into negotiations with empty hands. The enactment of the bill into law establishes a mechanism for Hawaiians to formally enter into a government-to-government relationship to redress past wrongs.
31	Would the jurisdiction of the proposed entity be so limited as to make self-determination mostly rhetorical?	No. Passage of the bill provides a greater measure of control over our own land and resources and our own decision-making about our future, as well as the protection of our programs, makes passage of the Akaka bill a better choice than not.
<u>Ethnicity, race, political</u>		
32	Is there a racial component regarding benefits under the Akaka bill?	<p>No. The Hawaiian recognition bill is based on the political and legal status of Native Hawaiians as the indigenous, native, aboriginal people of Hawai'i. The Hawaiian recognition bill is NOT based on race or ethnicity.</p> <p>The Constitution of the U.S. addresses the political and legal status of the indigenous, native peoples of America. That political status is founded not upon considerations of race or ethnicity, but upon the fact that the indigenous, native, aboriginal people occupied and exercised sovereignty over the lands and territories which were later to become part of the United States. Their sovereignty existed before the formation of the United States and continues.</p>

		<p>The United States Supreme Court has affirmed that native peoples have a political relationship with the United States.</p> <p>The laws of the U.S. reflect the constitutional status of the indigenous, native people of America. Upon this constitutional foundation, hundreds of Federal laws have been enacted that express the nature of the political and legal relationship the U.S. has with the sovereign governments of the native people of this land – American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.</p>
	Land	
33	Does the bill specifically guarantee that there will be negotiations that will settle AND give back any of the so-called ceded lands to Hawaiians?	The Hawaiian recognition bill is not a settlement. It provides an opportunity for Native Hawaiians to negotiate with the state and federal government to resolve longstanding legal issues. Passage of the Bill and enactment into law in itself does not settle any of these issues.
34	Is it true that under the bill, individuals will have to give up our land?	<p>Private land will not be affected after the Hawaiian recognition bill is law. The negotiations among the federal government, State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian governing entity <i>may</i> include the return of some Hawai'i public trust or ceded lands currently under the control of the U.S. or the State of Hawai'i but will not affect private land at all.</p> <p>No one will lose his/her place on the Hawaiian Homelands waiting list after the Hawaiian recognition bill becomes law.</p> <p>The passage of the Hawaiian recognition bill does not change existing federal and state laws.</p>
35	American Indians were never given back their lands, what makes you think the government will give you your land back?	To the contrary, millions of acres have been returned to American Indians and Alaska Natives for use and held in trust.
	Why work with America?	
36	Queen Lili'uokalani did not relinquish sovereignty, why do we need the bill?	As is true for American Indians and Alaska Natives, establishing a process of federal recognition for Native Hawaiians affords the opportunity for expression of a form of Hawaiian sovereignty within the context of federal law.

	<u>Differences between S 1011 and HR 2314</u>	
37	What are the major differences between HR 2314 and S 1011 Substitute Amendment?	The details of the differences between HR 2314 and S 1011 Substitute Amendment are found in the “Side-by-Side Comparison” of the two bills available on www.oha.org and www.NativeHawaiians.com .
	<u>8A/Super 8A</u>	
38	Explain 8A, Super 8A and Native Hawaiian Organization, and how affected by NHGRA?	Enactment of the bill strengthens Hawaiian programs. Please visit the Small Business Administration website at http://web.sba.gov/faqs/faqIndexAll.cfm?areaid=17 and www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/8abd/faqs/index.html and OHA’s website at www.oha.org/images/eco/sbacertificationprograms8apresentationmyouth11210.pdf for answers to frequently asked questions about 8A, Super 8A and Native Hawaiian Organizations.
	<u>Gambling</u>	
39	Even though gambling is not permitted under this bill, isn’t it true that there is nothing to stop it from happening once the S 1011 Substitute Amendment becomes law, under the provisions of federal recognition?	No. The language in S 1011 Substitute Amendment and HR 2314 specifically states that nothing in the bills authorize any form of gambling. In fact, currently, Hawai’i and Utah are the only two states that prohibit all forms of gambling. Only a new law enacted by the state legislature, and signed by the governor (or not vetoed by the governor) could allow gambling in Hawai’i in the future. Even in other states, American Indians and Alaska Natives cannot conduct gaming activities that are inconsistent with the laws of their state.
	<u>military</u>	
40	After the bill becomes law, how will issues with the military be handled?	The federally recognized Native Hawaiian governing entity will not have jurisdiction over military installations. Enactment does not impact military readiness. Department of Defense will continue to have the obligation to consult with Native Hawaiians consistent with existing law.
	<u>Panel</u>	
41	Why didn’t the panel include those who support and those who oppose the NHGRA?	The purpose of the tv program was to provide accurate information about the NHGRA bills, after two different versions of the bill passed out of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources and the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in mid-December. We wanted to take time to answer as many questions as possible about the bills. The program was not intended to be a debate of the bill.

Public Hearings		
42	Will there be more public hearings on NHGRA held on all islands of Hawai'i?	<p>This is a question best answered by the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation. The following is offered as background.</p> <p>Since it was first introduced in 2000, citizens have had numerous opportunities for comment on the Hawaiian recognition bill through Congressional hearings and by contacting their U.S. senators and representatives by phone, email and letter. In addition, the bill was initially developed with the benefit of various working groups comprised of representatives from the state and local governments, Hawai'i residents, legal experts, kūpuna, cultural practitioners, Hawaiian leaders and representatives from Hawaiian organizations.</p> <p>As far back as the early 1990's, federal recognition was discussed at various hearings held by state and federal agencies to gather input on reconciliation between the federal government and Native Hawaiians in light of the U.S. role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom in 1893. And in 1979, the voters of Hawai'i indicated their acknowledgement and support for Native Hawaiians' indigenous , native status when they ratified the state constitutional amendment that created the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.</p>