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Date: July 7, 2010

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## **AKAKA, INOUE, LINGLE REACH AGREEMENT ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT**

Honolulu, Hawaii - Today U.S. Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel K. Inouye announced that they have reached an agreement with Governor Linda Lingle that will secure the Governor's full support for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act. Senator Akaka spoke with Attorney General Mark Bennett late Friday and with the White House this morning before announcing the agreement.

Senators Akaka and Inouye will offer an amendment that will make changes affecting the powers and authorities of the Native Hawaiian governing entity during the period before legislation is enacted to implement agreements reached during three party negotiations. Although the current bill which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in February was drafted in consultation with the state and included nearly all of its proposed amendments, there were a few unresolved issues. The amendment announced today addresses the state's outstanding concerns.

"The Hawaii Congressional Delegation has received and considered many recommendations for revising and strengthening the bill since we began this process," said Akaka. "After a thorough review of the State's most recent proposal, I determined that the changes will not diminish the bill's intent to establish a federally recognized government-to-government relationship with the United States. I believe these changes will help secure additional votes in the Senate to overcome procedural hurdles and receive an up-or-down vote on the bill. We need to act quickly to ensure the bill passes the Senate and is signed into law this year. I remain optimistic that the United States will finally extend federal recognition to Native Hawaiians and end over a century of inequality in its treatment of its indigenous peoples."

The amendment will make changes to Section 9 of the bill. The changes will ensure that during the interim period the Native Hawaiian governing entity will be subject to the state's regulatory authority affecting public health and safety, until a temporary agreement is reached between the entity and state and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It will also make clear that the Native Hawaiian governing entity's officers and employees will not be immune from the state's criminal laws.

The text of the amendment is available here: [LINK](#)

The text H.R. 2314 as passed by the House of Representatives in February is available here: [LINK](#)

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