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## GLOSSARY

### **Admission Act**

Public Law 86-3, the statute approved by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1959, admitting Hawai'i as the fiftieth state of the Union. Section 5 of the Admission Act gives the State title to 1.4 million acres of ceded lands to be held as a public trust for five purposes identified in 5(f): support of public education institutions, betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, development of farm and home ownership, and public improvements.

### **Apology Bill**

Public Law 103-150, passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993. The joint resolution on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the January 17, 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i offers an apology for U.S. participation in the illegal overthrow. The Apology Bill states: "...the Republic of Hawai'i ceded 1.8 million acres of crown, government and public lands without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people or their sovereign government..."

### **Ceded Lands**

Land that once belonged to the Kingdom of Hawai'i, taken after the overthrow by the newly-created Republic of Hawai'i. About 1.8 million acres of land had been held in trust by the King for the benefit of the Hawaiian people. The Republic "ceded" the lands to the U.S. after annexation in 1898. During the period of the Republic and Territorial governments, some lands were sold. By 1959, under the Admission Act, the federal government transferred title to 1.4 million acres of ceded lands to the State of Hawai'i. These lands became part of the Public Land Trust described in Section 5 of the Admission Act.

### **Māhele**

The land system created in 1848 by Kamehameha III to allow private ownership of some lands. Before then, land was not privately owned. The Māhele divided the lands into crown lands reserved for the monarchy as a source of income,

government lands set aside for the support of the government, and lands awarded to ali'i and foreigners. The crown and government lands were used for the benefit of the public.

**Hawaiian Homes Commission Act**

Passed by Congress in 1921 setting aside 200,000 acres as a land trust for native Hawaiians. The purpose of the law was to rehabilitate native Hawaiians, particularly in returning them to the land in order to enhance economic self-sufficiency and promote the traditions, culture and quality of life of native Hawaiians. The 200,000 acres were once part of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and are identified in the Admission Act, Section 5(b) as part of the Public Land Trust.

**Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

State agency created by the 1978 State Constitutional Convention amendment and ratified by voters. The amendment became Article XII of the State Constitution. Section 6 gives OHA the power to manage and administer the income and proceeds from the public land trust.

**Public Land Trust**

Established under Section 5 of the Admission Act. The Public Land Trust includes 1.4 million acres of ceded lands. The beneficiaries of the Public Land Trust are identified in section 5(f): support of public education institutions, betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, development of farm and home ownership, and public improvements. Various laws passed by the Hawaii State Legislature refer to ceded lands as the Public Land Trust.