

PRESS CONFERENCE – JULY 26, 2016
OPPOSING EXPANSION OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY
OVER PAPAHA NAUMOKUAKEA

key words – NORTHWEST HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, PAPAHA NAUMOKUAKEA, NATIONAL MARINE MONUMENT, OCEAN ENVIRONMENT, FISHING RESTRICTIONS, KOANI FOUNDATION, HAWAIIAN NATIONALS, KE AUPUNI O HAWAII, NATIVE HAWAIIAN RIGHTS, HAWAIIAN KINGDOM JURISDICTION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ), LAW OF THE SEA, ILLEGAL ANNEXATION

**A JOINT STATEMENT by The Koani Foundation,
The Coalition of Hawaiian Nationals
and Ke Aupuni O Hawaii (The Hawaiian Kingdom)**

July 26, 2016

Aloha mai...Aloha kākou...

Mahalo nui. I am Leon Siu, representing three entities: **The Koani Foundation, The Coalition of Hawaiian Nationals and Ke Aupuni O Hawaii (the Hawaiian Kingdom).**

I am pleased to have been invited here today to voice our strong opposition to the proposal being considered by President Obama to authorize the U.S. Federal Government to expand its reach and further encroach upon the area known as Papahānaumokuākea, also called the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

This area is actually part of the national territories of the Hawaiian Kingdom, not the United States of America or the U.S. State of Hawaii. In view of this and the active liberation movement to reinstate the Hawaiian Kingdom, we advise against any expansion of U.S. federal authority, not only in Papahānaumokuākea, but throughout the entire national territories of Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Āina. The entire Hawaiian Archipelago. The Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands.

Our opposition to the expansion of U.S. federal control in the Hawaiian Islands is also firmly based on the principles of Aloha 'Āina — which includes kuleana to protect our lands and seas. It is this kuleana that has fueled our struggles, from the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana to Kū Kia'i Mauna the dramatic kū'e to Protect Mauna Kea. The duty to protect our islands, *ku'u one hānau*, the sands of our birth, is not simply motivated by sentiment, it is impelled by our duty as the stewards of this land and solidly backed by international laws governing political and human rights.

As an occupying force, the U.S. is obligated to maintain these territories until the proper government, the Hawaiian Kingdom, returns to power. Leading up to that time, it is the United States' responsibility to prepare for the transition. Thus, the U.S. should be endeavoring to draw down, not plotting to widen and tighten its grip.

Others who have spoken today in opposition to the overreach of federal power are asking, "Why the rush?" It's been suggested that the reason is so President Obama may point to this action as a "legacy" when he leaves office. But is that what he would want? ...a legacy of theft upon theft, compounded since 1898?

If President Obama wishes to leave a truly meaningful legacy for Hawaiians, he would issue an executive order to honor the commitment made by President Cleveland in 1893 to Free Hawai'i. It's been a long time coming. And no one could accuse him of "rushing."

Aloha 'Āina,
Leon Siu

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