

1 that too, we learned that the government of Hawai`i, aside from
2 hearing it from Senator English this morning, is doing a lot to
3 help us, especially here in Hawai`i.

4 So like Melody (indiscernible) states, gratitude
5 makes sense of our past, brings peace to today, and creates a
6 vision for tomorrow.

7 Before we continue on today with our agenda on
8 responsibilities, rights, and responsibilities in our community
9 efforts, I would like to bring us to the past and try to make
10 sense of it so that we have, when we go forward with this
11 vision, you know, we have a good vision to take and to work on.

12 So right now, I would like to humbly ask our
13 (indiscernible) representative James Naich to please come and
14 (indiscernible) -- sorry, I'm a little bit nervous, as you can
15 see that -- and our (indiscernible) justice and former Compact
16 negotiator Andon Amaraich to the stage. Thank you.

17 (Audience applause.)

18 EMCEE HOWARD: I would like to ask Ambassador Naich if
19 you can go, right at this point, to go ahead and introduce his
20 panel members. And they will talk to you about the
21 (indiscernible) the association, and why we are here.

22 Compact Negotiations, Expectations, Hopes

23 Introduction by James Naich

24 BY MR. NAICH:

25 How do you introduce a man who appears for who is like

1 a grandfather to many of us in this room? Especially for me,
2 the man who hired me as his foreign service officer when I was
3 came out fresh out of college. I ponder over this question when
4 my friend David Hanlon suggested that I do this introduction for
5 our storytelling this morning.

6 I guess it's the allure of coming to paradise from
7 Washington was the incentive. But more than that, I took the
8 responsibility as a matter of duty.

9 So this morning, we will be listening to a Micronesian
10 story, a story that we, some of us, cherish as Micronesians and
11 as friends of Micronesia, because it is an important part of our
12 history and heritage. It is a story that I think
13 (indiscernible) us and defines who we are as a people.

14 Just as important, it is a story that we as
15 Micronesians proudly shared with the people of the United States
16 of America. From the Pacific islands of Guam and Saipan and
17 American Samoa, to the Big Island and to the Island of O'ahu, to
18 the west coast city of Los Angeles and Portland, to the
19 midwestern towns of Park Hill and (audience interruption), to
20 the east coast metropolis of New York City and to Washington,
21 D.C., itself.

22 It is a story about the forging of the unique
23 relationship, about the cultivation of a special friendship,
24 about the strengthening of the tie that binds. It is also a
25 story of a group of Micronesian men of strong determination who,

1 guided by the needs and aspirations of their people, were
2 charged with the (indiscernible) responsibility of building a
3 long distance (indiscernible).

4 (Indiscernible) purposeful voyage, a voyage of
5 friendship and mutual respect and shared values and hopes. A
6 joint quest for mutual benefits (indiscernible).

7 (Indiscernible) story about nation building. For once, nation
8 building, a new building, and (indiscernible) of voyaging.

9 As Hilda and many others spoke (indiscernible) to new
10 building and long-distance navigation have always been important
11 ingredients of Micronesian cultures. In many respects, our
12 three Micronesian nations were built by (indiscernible) and
13 (indiscernible) diplomacy by men who are founding fathers,
14 school and discipline in the ways of our nation, Micronesian
15 pathfinders.

16 We are most fortunate this morning to have, as our
17 storyteller, one of the master architects of the original (voice
18 trailing). (Indiscernible) reminisce with us, they will share
19 with us his recollections of the dreams and aspirations, perhaps
20 even moments of uncertainty that he and his fellow Micronesian
21 canoe builders had in deciding the architecture and
22 (indiscernible) of the canoe that so far has been able to take
23 us to distant shores and which hopefully will still be seaworthy
24 to sail us back home one day.

25 There was no (indiscernible) storyteller was

1 (indiscernible) role in the creation of his country and
2 particularly in the establishment of this special relationship
3 with the United States.

4 Prior to the turning point in history of the
5 (indiscernible) territory of the Pacific Islands, we have
6 (indiscernible) distinguishing himself as a dedicated servant of
7 his people. (Indiscernible) have a long career beginning as a
8 classroom teacher. But in the interest of time, I will have to
9 abbreviate his career.

10 His service as a member of the (indiscernible)
11 Micronesia for many years (indiscernible). He crossed the
12 (indiscernible) of Micronesia, that became the initial catalyst
13 for the process that led to the creation of our three
14 Micronesian states.

15 In the old Congress of Micronesia, he was a member of
16 the political status negotiating team and advisor to the U.S.
17 delegation to the UN (indiscernible), chairman of the
18 (indiscernible) committee of (indiscernible) government
19 operations, as well as chairman of the Micronesian delegation to
20 the UN (indiscernible) on the law of the sea.

21 Upon the birth of the constitutional government of the
22 (indiscernible) in 1979 and (audience interruption) was called
23 upon (indiscernible) the unfinished work that (indiscernible)
24 carried out and completed by the (indiscernible) commission on
25 status negotiations and transition.

1 Concomitantly, he was appointed to serve as the first
2 (indiscernible) secretary of external affairs, a position which
3 he served for over a decade.

4 What makes this most relevant as our storyteller this
5 morning is not the fact that he's a chief justice of the
6 (indiscernible) Supreme Court; but that (indiscernible)
7 Micronesian founding father, a statesman who was directly
8 involved in the original negotiations of the Compact of Free
9 Association and its implementation, including the integration
10 provision of that treaty which are the heart, mind, body, and
11 soul of that special relationship.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming
13 Andon Amaraich.

14 (Audience applause.)

15 MR. NAICH: Mr. Amaraich is our acting consulate
16 general of the (indiscernible). Mr. (Indiscernible) has served
17 in this position for more that (indiscernible) 20 years.

18 (Audience interruption.)

19 (Audience applause.)

20 MR. NAICH: So perhaps (indiscernible) story, that
21 Micronesian story by our storytelling.

22 Presentation by Andon L. Amaraich

23 BY MR. AMARAICH:

24 (Indiscernible) to these sitting down. Thank you,
25 Senator, for the very important message. (Indiscernible) take

1 back to Micronesia. (Indiscernible) appreciate that, and the
2 many other things that I have learned through these
3 participation.

4 The first story is this, that I was trying to
5 determine who I am among you and especially those who are alumni
6 of this place. And I found that I was here, at least for
7 30 days, I think. So maybe I can be called a, what, an
8 associate alumni? Is there such thing as that?

9 The second part of the story is that I have been in
10 Hawai`i several times. Several times. I can say many times.
11 So I thought I could be called, I could be called immigrant
12 because of that. But my story is different because I came here
13 for a very bad reason, and that was to be cut off, cut from here
14 down to there and make some plumbings inside of me. I guess you
15 can call that migrating or migratory species of something.

16 I would like to really thank the organization here and
17 all of those who have made it possible for me to join you in
18 trying to look at what happened.

19 Before I go on, let me tell you this. I learned a
20 very good lesson -- well, good or bad -- if I try to put my
21 11 children to sleep, all I do is tell them history. So watch
22 out. And that's true. You know.

23 So many people are also very worked up about the
24 future and they forget yesterday. And sometimes they are in a
25 hurry bypassing today and try to get to tomorrow and forgetting

1 what happened yesterday.

2 I will try my best to recall what happened, but I warn
3 you it is history and might put you to sleep early morning.

4 This morning we are going to focus on the
5 (indiscernible), very important. (Indiscernible) those
6 negotiations that has to do with the opportunity given to
7 Micronesians under the Compact of Free Association to freely
8 enter the United States without those limitations that are
9 normally imposed upon other citizens of other countries.

10 Our first effort to begin the negotiations started at
11 the time when we first met in Washington. There was a change of
12 government in the United States, and the United States
13 Government was not ready to speak to us because of the changes
14 in many (indiscernible) of the United States Government.

15 I mention this because that's when the first effort
16 was made by the Micronesian delegations to ask the United States
17 that whatever relationship there, that is worked out. And to
18 enter the United States by citizens of the former trust
19 territory of the Pacific islands is something that the
20 Micronesians (indiscernible) important because it will help the
21 (indiscernible) of nations and the development of the economy
22 and the advancement of people in education and that area.

23 Unfortunately, at that point, all that the United
24 States Government was able to say was still look at it. And
25 yes, they did, and we did. But I mention this because that is

1 the main reasons, one of the reasons for my agreeing to join
2 this very important gathering.

3 One thing I know is that I never thought that I would
4 live this long to see a conference on this subject. And because
5 of that, I feel very -- I don't know how to explain it -- but I
6 have feelings about that, especially because it was something
7 that I thought was very important from the beginning of our
8 effort in bridging a relationship between our countries.

9 The initial steps were very difficult, especially
10 because the desire of the Micronesian leaders who were serving
11 in the congress was to create a relationship which turned out to
12 be something that was not well known in the world. But that is
13 because at that time, there was only one example of
14 free-association relationship. And therefore, there was some
15 concern about what it is that we were going to follow in
16 determining free association. And there were some resistance
17 because of that.

18 But finally, there was agreement that free association
19 between the countries are something that the countries
20 themselves determine to be. Therefore, you find some unique
21 things in the Compact of Free Association, like immigration.

22 We desire independence at the time, but our
23 instruction as negotiators were that we try to find a new
24 arrangement that will take into account the long history of
25 relationship between the United States and the Micronesian

1 government and the need of the new government or countries for
2 advancement in education, health, and economic development.

3 Early on, some of the Micronesians who are going to
4 school in the United States were very few. But as
5 (indiscernible) and United States programs expanded and the
6 education system in Micronesia improved under the
7 (indiscernible) administration, more and more young people
8 graduated from high school and, of course, (indiscernible) to go
9 to college. That's one element in the relationship that had to
10 be seriously considered, and therefore, the effort to keep the
11 door open, the doors, and one of those doors is Honolulu.

12 And it's no surprise that many Micronesians have moved
13 because of that opportunity agreed upon by the two sides of the
14 negotiation. And that's what we have today.

15 One thing I must admit, that I didn't expect this many
16 of Micronesians outside of Micronesia. But it is there, and I
17 think it's gonna be here for as long as some of us are around.

18 So it is a fact that I think it's important that we
19 give (audience interruption) our many activities in our part of
20 the world. I do hope that what comes out of this conference
21 will be one that our citizens and their leaders of our
22 Micronesian governments and of the United States Government
23 focus on because there is an element of resources here in
24 Honolulu, in Hawai`i, and elsewhere in the United States.

25 So I'm ready to go to sleep. I'm gonna read

1 (indiscernible). There (indiscernible). I should be introduced
2 as chief justice or (indiscernible), (audience interruption).

3 Now, all my grandchildren, immigrants, and all that --
4 but we chose to stay with that title of the somebody who was
5 there when negotiations took place. It's a long time ago. So
6 please bear with me. There is plenty chairs, so you can put
7 them together.

8 Some are alarmed by the increased number of
9 Micronesians outside of Micronesia and especially in Hawai`i
10 because they call it a brain drain. But many look to the fact
11 that these many Micronesians outside of Micronesia are
12 fulfilling what we consider to be important when we crafted the
13 Compact of Free Association. And that is, to contribute to the
14 development of Micronesia.

15 Whatever you are, that dream was for you to contribute
16 directly or indirectly to the development of Micronesia. We
17 have (indiscernible) that desire to ask you come back. And it's
18 very interesting or important to observe, at least in my islands
19 or in my state, where Micronesians who have gone to school, even
20 for a long time residents of the United States, do come back.

21 And this (indiscernible) made possible because of the
22 fact that even though the Micronesians are away from their home
23 islands, they still maintain the kind of life and families and
24 helping each other, even though they are outside of Micronesia.
25 And please continue doing that because that's very important.

1 On the question of free access to the United States
2 for education, health, and other purposes, when it was first
3 raised at the beginning of the negotiations, the United States
4 had no problem with it. They did not object to it.

5 But I think that they did that because of a different
6 reason. Why (indiscernible) -- well, the Micronesian government
7 or negotiators requested it because of a different reason. So
8 the two agree that it should be open, free access in the United
9 States.

10 But when you recall that at some point during these
11 negotiations, the United States offered a status of commonwealth
12 of the United States of America, which would have in effect made
13 the Micronesians nationals of the United States, which is
14 different from being Micronesian and still be able to enter the
15 United States.

16 So on the one side, there was that policy of the
17 United States Government that was proclaimed by President
18 Johnson when he created a study group to come out to the trust
19 territory of the Pacific islands and to report back on what to
20 do or make recommendations on what the United States should do
21 to develop the people and the islands economically, socially,
22 educationally, and politically.

23 Interestingly, one year before the establishment of
24 the study commission or group headed by Harvard economist
25 (indiscernible) Anthony Solomon, the president already issued a

1 policy on Micronesia or trust territory; and that is, to make
2 sure that the islands are remain in the United States political
3 family. You can interpret what that means. But that was
4 different from being a citizen of your own country like it
5 eventually happened.

6 So because of the fact that there was this study that
7 was sent out and the policy established a year before that make
8 sure that those people remain under the United States as
9 permanent nationals of the United States of America; and because
10 of that, even though the Solomon report contained very positive
11 recommendations, the fact that there was a policy beside that
12 instruction, the report and the policy were denounced in
13 Micronesia and outside of Micronesia.

14 And that was because in 1945 or around there, the
15 United States and other countries organized what is now the
16 United Nations. And they put in the trusteeship agreements in
17 which the United States committed itself to develop the islands
18 for self-government. And self-government is different from
19 commonwealth, I guess. They are different in my view at that
20 time, and I still think they are different.

21 Therefore, there was a contradiction in the policy.
22 In one end, we need to develop the islanders and their
23 government toward self-determination. And on the other, we need
24 to make sure that those islanders and the islands remain
25 permanent citizens and property of the United States Government.

1 So there was a dilemma for the United States to try
2 and balance those objectives which were conflicting. It was
3 something that caused the Micronesian leaders at that time when
4 the trust territories, other trust territories were emerging as
5 independent countries, this incident enforced the desire of the
6 leaders at the time of Micronesia to seek a different approach
7 in terms of eventual self-government.

8 And it chose, under instruction by the Congress of
9 Micronesia, to make sure that Micronesia retain their right to
10 determine its own destiny but remain friendly with the United
11 States. And the congress said, design a new kind of free
12 association that is flexible in terms of content so that we can
13 continue to be friends of the United States and still meet the
14 need for United States defense requirement.

15 You will recall that our trust territory of the
16 Pacific islands was the only trusteeship that had this provision
17 in there that islands, you know, is a strategic area for the
18 United States; and therefore, there was a need and continues to
19 be a link between the trust territory and the new government
20 with the trusteeship (audience interruption) even though other
21 trusteeships (audience interruption) (indiscernible).

22 The trusteeship council, the trust territory of the
23 Pacific islands, also responds or relate to the Security Council
24 of the United Nations.

25 The Congress of Micronesia instructed that

1 negotiators, here are the elements that should not be
2 compromised; and that is, the right to determine what you want
3 to be as a country and your right and authority to change that
4 element of the relationship and the new government.

5 In other words, in short, free association should be
6 one that is (indiscernible) by either party because otherwise
7 it's not a free choice. And that's what the Congress of
8 Micronesia have chose, because of the belief that even though
9 the (Indiscernible) are different and maybe the contents of the
10 relationship is very unique, and because the system of
11 trusteeship that was (indiscernible) Micronesia or trust
12 territory was based on the United States system education,
13 health, political, and economic; therefore, it's there in the
14 relationship, and we should make sure that those are not
15 destroyed.

16 But everybody, including the United Nations, says that
17 people have the right for self-determination and that's what
18 happened. So they decided, on the part of the United States, to
19 say that we Micronesians should be kept as part, a permanent
20 part of the United States' political family was not attractive,
21 I should say. Was not possible. Was not acceptable.

22 Because our belief that even though we weren't
23 administered by the United States and the United Nations, our
24 sovereignty was never, never taken away. It was there waiting
25 to be reactivated when that time comes.

1 And therefore, when we have talked of the constitution
2 of the Federated Micronesia, that's when sovereignty -- I don't
3 know what you call it. But that's what we got it back.

4 It was somewhere up there -- not with the United
5 Nations, not with the United States, but was in (indiscernible)
6 somewhere. And when self-determination was done and the
7 constitution was adopted, that's when sovereignty raised again.
8 Sovereignty is back. And therefore, you have the power to
9 regulate your destiny. And there was and there is nothing wrong
10 with that.

11 But (indiscernible) we would continue to need the
12 assistance and the sympathy and the love of those
13 (indiscernible) people and countries who are still there and
14 still here. And therefore, (indiscernible) element in the free
15 association relationship were designed to make it possible for
16 you and for us and for everybody to recognize our responsibility
17 to continue to promote self-respect, self-government, and all of
18 those attributes that make people live comfortably.

19 And I think that's the beauty of this conference today
20 and yesterday, and many, many days to come, that there is a
21 friendly relationship between the United States Government and
22 the new government of Micronesia.

23 The Micronesians agree that they are and should not be
24 in the business of war because they are not capable of handling
25 that aspect of the existence of people; because therefore

1 logical that the Micronesian government agree that United States
2 should have the authority and responsibility for defense of the
3 islands. And that's what we have now and we will continue to
4 have it, I think, because there is no -- are you still awake? --
5 there is no reason for doubting that is the best arrangement.

6 And (audience interruption) comment by the first
7 president of Micronesia, President Tosiwo Nakayama. He was
8 asked, "Why do you associate yourself with the United States?"
9 Uh, you know, when other countries know that you're part of the
10 United States, they will wage war against you because many --
11 they said -- many countries are not getting along.

12 And the response was, well -- this statement was
13 compared to a shark. And the president said, "Yeah, that may be
14 true; but if you want to be protected, you better stay with the
15 big shark." And maybe that's why many of us came here so you
16 stay with the big shark.

17 Joking aside, I can say that those aspirations have
18 not changed. We remain friendly and we remain -- well, somebody
19 yesterday said we are not poor; but if we are poor, we really
20 mean poor.

21 But there is this new element in the relationship
22 which has been the resolve of people seeking -- I don't know
23 whether to call it best life -- but people are seeking level of
24 comfort because that's what everybody is doing. You seek a
25 level of comfort so that you have a better life.

1 And this big shark can provide some of those and still
2 be able to take care of the many, many other immigrants. I
3 don't know (indiscernible) the case of Micronesians, we talking
4 maybe 30,000. But these number of people are helping Micronesia
5 by the money they send back. They are estimated to be over 20
6 million a year.

7 There may be more because there are no statistics.
8 But many of us in Micronesia sometime overlook that aspect of
9 the development that the Micronesians are contributing because
10 they are here.

11 The movement or the migration is natural. I would say
12 natural because first, we were brought up with the United States
13 education system and the healthcare system. Even though we
14 started going to school in the United States, you're not
15 qualified if you don't know how to wash dishes and mow the lawn
16 because that's where we started.

17 Those who became leaders in Micronesia started
18 education in Honolulu for a time doing that, grass cutting,
19 washing dishes, taking care of babies, children, and all of
20 those. And it was the life at the time.

21 There was nothing wrong with that. It was what we had
22 at the time. And I'm so happy and proud to see that many of
23 those who are here in Honolulu know how to wash dishes. I hope.
24 But seriously, your presence in here, in Honolulu, and elsewhere
25 in the United States is very important.

1 Yesterday, there was a dispute whether you should
2 accept this and reject that, (indiscernible). Maybe there are
3 experts who (indiscernible) tell us don't and do. But the other
4 responsibility -- I'm talking to Micronesians now -- is you
5 are -- you know, put your (indiscernible) in your ears.

6 But we do have the responsibility, collectively and
7 individually, as Micronesians. And we don't or should not get
8 into the habit of just getting it, just taking it. We have to
9 do our part, not only for us at this time, but for those who are
10 coming later, your children and my children.

11 And in that connection, I truly would like to thank
12 the university East-West Center and through you, sir, Senator,
13 the legislature, for this tremendous outpour of sympathy and
14 love and willingness, desire to help.

15 I intentionally made this long so there would be no
16 time for questioning. Yesterday I was worried because many
17 people came up to me, oh, we're looking forward to your
18 presentation. I said sorry.

19 I didn't finish everything I came with. But in here,
20 I said, hey --. What did I say? I said in due course, a bigger
21 paper will be made and that will contain some of the things I
22 left out intentionally and some that we may be able to put
23 together to make things a little bit worthwhile in the future
24 and no price.

25 To that -- flash, oh that's a camera -- I'm going to

1 stop here. I'm sure the good coordinators will understand if
2 there are no questions. But if they give us a little bit more
3 time, maybe it will wake you up when you want to ask questions.
4 So thank you very much.

5 * * * * *

6 (Audience applause.)

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Thank you. I just wanted
8 to make a clarification in part to a question that was raised
9 yesterday about green card. There is much misperception by
10 employers, especially on the Mainland where many people do not
11 understand that the Compact or the special relationship with the
12 United States, that they usually ask the citizens of the Freely
13 Associated States for visa or a green card in order to work.

14 As has been pointed out, the citizens of the
15 Freely Associated States are not required to have visa or the
16 green card to work. So that's one clarification I would like to
17 make.

18 Number two, the Compact of Free Association is
19 not a shortcut to the application for U.S. citizenship; nor is
20 it a shortcut to obtaining a green card. Already under the
21 Compact that has been pointed out, we have free access to the
22 United States for purpose of employment, for going to school,
23 for residing in the United States except, you know,
24 (indiscernible) run for office. So that's one clarification I
25 would like to make.

1 EMCEE HOWARD: How about a hand for the panel?

2 (Audience applause.)

3 EMCEE HOWARD: Thank you very much, Andon Amaraich,
4 for your words of wisdom and funny jokes. I also want to
5 acknowledge, you know, thank Danny for his presence, and thank
6 you, James Naich, for being a great moderator.

7 We are going to go on a 15-minute break. But
8 before we go, I want to remind you that we're gonna reconvene at
9 10:15.

10 (Recess taken, 10:00 a.m. to 10:28 a.m.)

11 EMCEE HOWARD: Welcome back. May I ask everyone to
12 please go back to your seats. We're going to start pretty soon.
13 Okay, is everybody ready?

14 You know, I regret not doing this earlier, but it
15 was brought to me by some of my colleagues out there that we
16 wanted to give a (indiscernible) a symbolic of appreciation for
17 all the sacrifices that the Hawaiians have done for us, the
18 hosting culture have done for the Micronesians here, to Senator
19 Kalani English. But he had left. So I just wanted to show you
20 that. So we were gonna give him this.

21 So right now, I would like to introduce
22 Mrs. Lillian (indiscernible) Segal-Harper. And she will
23 introduce to you her panel.

24 Our theme right now -- well, I guess before we
25 even go there, I would like to recognize one more person in this