



1           And any time you take the class, there's always  
2 something (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) concerned about him.  
3 And so I know that he was suffering at home. And he was  
4 struggling in school. And the problems (indiscernible) said  
5 (indiscernible) struggling with issues here and struggling  
6 (voice fading).

7           When I began to be involved -- I used to be involved  
8 with Micronesians United before I created Micronesian Community  
9 Network.

10           And I thought that (indiscernible) provide mentoring  
11 and tutoring programs. So I began to create -- to begin to  
12 create the Micronesian professionals mentoring and tutoring  
13 program where we sort of identifying (indiscernible)  
14 Micronesians here in Hawai`i and putting them with younger  
15 students who provide (indiscernible) -- not just student  
16 (indiscernible) to be successful in education, role models. And  
17 so we work with -- we try to work with teachers.

18           (Indiscernible) have a lot of funding to continue. We  
19 had, for one semester, (indiscernible) in school. We got  
20 funding from that Even Start program. I think it was  
21 (indiscernible) only one semester. Like I say, we don't have  
22 any money so we couldn't continue.

23           Anyway, that's one of the things. I'm currently -- as  
24 I told you before, I currently serve as the chairperson of the  
25 Micronesian Community Network education committee. So we try to

1 (indiscernible) things that we (indiscernible) accessing  
2 educational opportunities and then provide them to our people.

3 Briefly, I (indiscernible) all of the education I had  
4 to get, I had to really struggle (indiscernible) didn't have a  
5 lot of funding from (indiscernible), didn't have a lot of money.

6 I went to (indiscernible). Before I came to Hawai`i,  
7 I spent about two years in a church mission in Louisiana,  
8 Mississippi, and Alabama. And I began to work with a lot of  
9 African-American communities, and I learned a lot of things that  
10 they were struggling with in terms of racial issues in the  
11 United States, you know, accessing (indiscernible) stuff. I  
12 began to, uh, more sensitized to the needs of (indiscernible)  
13 nonwhite communities.

14 When I came to the University of Hawai`i,  
15 (indiscernible) American (indiscernible) committee, with  
16 (indiscernible) anti-nuclear war. So I had a chance to work  
17 around the Pacific and other parts of world.

18 I served once in the international (indiscernible).  
19 It's the oldest (indiscernible) world, in doing a lot of  
20 important work. And for one-third (indiscernible), two  
21 (indiscernible) male and male representative (indiscernible).

22 And then I currently serve as the Pacific rep for that  
23 new network called the International Network (indiscernible),  
24 International Network to eliminate nuclear weapons. And my  
25 initial interest (indiscernible), I grew up in the time

1 (indiscernible) fighting (indiscernible) to preserve the  
2 (indiscernible).

3 And then I came and I began to learn about the  
4 (indiscernible) of the Marshallese. That gravitated me towards  
5 activism with the (indiscernible) committee. I began to  
6 question the basis of democracy. When we voted so many times to  
7 say no, we don't want nuclear weapons, and the United States  
8 kept insisting. (Indiscernible.)

9 And so I began to question why. The (indiscernible)  
10 supported democracy was against democracy (indiscernible). And  
11 that's how I (indiscernible) community work.

12 And after completing my master's, I went to BYU.  
13 (Indiscernible; trucks passing.) So before coming to the  
14 University of Hawai'i, I was molded out of my bachelor years,  
15 undergraduate years (indiscernible) conservative thinking person  
16 working within the confines of (indiscernible) institutions.

17 And when I came to the University of Hawai'i, I began  
18 to see a lot of the (indiscernible), under the surface. I  
19 rebelled against a lot of the things I saw happening, the things  
20 that I had buried within the American educational system, and  
21 began to question why. So I spent a lot of years trying to  
22 (indiscernible).

23 Anyway, (indiscernible) I think it was a good thing  
24 that I decided to get involved with the Micronesian Community  
25 Network because it allowed me to now take an interest that was

1 (indiscernible) around the Pacific (indiscernible) do something  
2 that is (indiscernible) Micronesians themselves. So I was happy  
3 (indiscernible) leader of the Micronesian Community Network and  
4 (indiscernible), get a chance to (indiscernible) Office of  
5 Community Services.

6 (Indiscernible) but the Office of Community Services  
7 is within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.  
8 They had had some extra money in 2006 and wanted to look around  
9 and work with (indiscernible) community groups. And him and  
10 Robert (indiscernible) no, we gotta work with Micronesians.

11 So they came to us and said that we're interested in  
12 collaborating (indiscernible) issues Micronesians are facing in  
13 Hawai`i. So we came up with the idea of a Micronesian cultural  
14 exchange festival -- many of you attended in 2006. And  
15 (indiscernible) \$65,000. And Office of Community Services  
16 provided that money. So we (indiscernible) appreciated that  
17 they gave us the chance to (indiscernible) Micronesian cultures  
18 and talk with service providers and Micronesian community  
19 leaders.

20 Then that led to other things. I wanted to say  
21 something that I think some -- maybe the -- controversial, in  
22 terms what we've been discussing previously this morning and  
23 this afternoon. Senator Akaka proposed a bill in the U.S.  
24 Senate to expand the med-QUEST and food stamps services to  
25 Micronesians in the United States.

1           And the whole Hawai`i delegation is actually  
2 supporting -- the government of the Republic of Palau is against  
3 it, strongly oppose this idea.

4           And the reason is this: They said that 30 years ago,  
5 Micronesian (indiscernible). We have to be faithful to these  
6 ideas. And 20 years after independence, we have to address  
7 (indiscernible) and not asking for crumbs from American tables.

8           This is how I feel about (indiscernible). I agree  
9 with my government (indiscernible). But at the same time,  
10 working to create the (indiscernible) opportunities for  
11 Micronesians -- not create a new underclass of citizens in the  
12 United States -- but create opportunities for us to get student  
13 education, jobs, and the students (indiscernible) from struggles  
14 that we go through.

15           I hope that 20 years from now, you're gonna look at  
16 the struggles we're facing today saying it was for nothing. We  
17 have to do something. We have to teach our young. We cannot  
18 continue to come to Hawai`i with so many opportunities open to  
19 us and not take advantage of it.

20           So we have a school, McKinley Community School that is  
21 very supportive of Micronesians. (Indiscernible) has provided a  
22 lot of facilities for free. He gives us a portable for  
23 (indiscernible) meetings and sold us computers to help us learn  
24 computers and classes and even creates two classes, a  
25 Marshallese class and a Chuukese class.

1           Unfortunately, students were (indiscernible). So my  
2 concern is we may not be taking full advantages of the  
3 opportunities we're getting. And of all the niceties that we  
4 make as well as collaborating with people in Hawai`i, we have to  
5 show that we have the initiative to (indiscernible) ourselves.  
6 This is what the Palauans believe in, and I think that I have  
7 shown to some extent their economic development.

8           We have a very bad reputation of being very aggressive  
9 (indiscernible) is not working. Even (indiscernible) their own  
10 (indiscernible). So I think it's the experience to some extent  
11 how I feel about working aggressively to create a program, but  
12 not creating a new underclass and not allowing the United States  
13 to say, oh, yeah, we gave you so much, you still screwed up, and  
14 here you are right now asking for more (indiscernible) crumbs  
15 off the table.

16           So I think that the important thing we Micronesians  
17 should get from this conference is to (indiscernible). The  
18 reason we're here, I know that I agree with -- I respect  
19 Ambassador Naich, justifying the presence of our people outside  
20 of our nations.

21           But nation building does not justify 15 or 20 or  
22 30,000 people moving away. We have to address our  
23 (indiscernible) association just allow us to move back and  
24 forth. But traditional conceptions of nation building  
25 (indiscernible) and creates opportunities for people who develop

1 their full potential within their territories.

2 So I hope that the Compact of Free Association that  
3 have created opportunities for us to come here, theoretically,  
4 the resources that we did not have there, we have here. And so  
5 let's resolve to take full advantage of those things. Mahalo.

6 \* \* \* \* \*

7 MS. HOWARD: Thank you very much, Richard, for your  
8 frank and insightful opinions. We know it's -- that's why this  
9 is very important 'cause (indiscernible) are sharing and through  
10 learning of our differences that we come up with ways to make  
11 lives better.

12 And I can assure that this event right now is  
13 building -- you know, building, strengthening our communities  
14 and building towards a better future. And I trust each and  
15 every one of the Micronesians who are here in the crowd, that  
16 they are making good judgment to lead our people to a better  
17 future.

18 Thank you, and right now we are open up for  
19 questions.

20 FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBER TUSI: (Speaking foreign  
21 language.) Aloha, my name is Tusi (phonetic; indiscernible).  
22 I'm a nurse and I am the program coordinator for a very special  
23 program, and it's called Cancer Treatment and Education Program  
24 at Hawai'i Medical Center, formerly St. Francis Medical Center.

25 And I have several grants. I have the BCCP