

CIVIL RIGHTS STATEMENT

Approved unanimously by those in attendance
February 20, 1964 at East-West Center

Simeon Acoba, A.S.U.H. Civil Rights Week Committee
Dr. Abraham K. Akaka, Chairman Civil Rights Commission
Theodore Akana, Hawaii Government Employees Association
Harry Boranian, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
Charles Campbell, Leilehua High School, Co-convenor of Consultation
J. C. Cavanagh, Honolulu Chamber of Commerce
George Chaplin, Editor Honolulu Advertiser
James Dooley, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
William H. Ewing, Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin
Marva Garrett, N.A.A.C.P.
Rep. Thomas P. Gill, U.S. House of Representatives
The Reverend Donald Graff, Catholic Diocese
Dr. Thomas H. Hamilton, President, University of Hawaii
Robert Hasegawa, Civil Rights Commission
Milton Hibden, Radio-T.V. Broadcasters Association
The Reverend Lawrence S. Jones, President, Honolulu Council of Churches
Co-covener of Consultation
Dr. Robert Kamins, Civil Rights Commission
Bernard Levinson, Temple Emanu-El, Civil Rights Commission
Robert C. Loveless, Honolulu Christian College, Co-convenor of Consultation
Jeannette Miller, Editor, Ka Leo O Hawaii
The Reverend Norito Nagao, Honpa Hongwanji Mission
Constantine Samson, I.L.W.U.
Gary Yamagata, President, Associated Students of University of Hawaii

CONFERENCE STATEMENT:

- 1) America is a young country with a rich heritage. Men and women of many races, creeds and nationalities have shared in building this nation. The greatest hope of American democracy lies in the realization of "The American Dream" in which each individual receives recognition based on merit. "Respect for the individual" should not be merely a "dream". It should mean that every man and woman has equal rights before the law: equal opportunity for employment and promotion; equal opportunity to vote and hold public office; equal opportunity to be educated, to rent or buy a home or obtain lodging and to participate fully in community affairs. These goals are at the core of our democratic society.

Our racial differences do not mean that some are inherently inferior to others. The eminent anthropologist, the late Franz Boaz said, "If we select the most intelligent, imaginative, energetic and emotionally stable third of mankind, all races would be represented."

- 2) Detachment and lack of involvement in the civil rights struggle is not a policy which we of Hawaii should follow. It is our conviction that we cannot assume that this crucial issue affecting our nation is "not our problem." It is our concern, if for no other reason than that together we are Americans facing one of the most critical periods in American history.

- 3) Hawaii has an obligation to bear witness to the rest of the nation. We do this not out of a sense of self-righteousness, but with deep humility, for we are aware that race relations in Hawaii are not without need of improvement. However, it is a fact that Hawaii is one of the few areas in the world where people of varied racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds have learned to live and work together without serious friction. It can be done. Our late President John F. Kennedy recognized this fact then, upon arrival in Hawaii to present his civil rights program to the nation, he said, "This island represents everything we are and hope to be."

PROPOSALS:

- 1) That the leaders of our state, in education, government, labor, business and industry, religion, the mass media, and community groups, on their own initiative develop and implement means of increasing awareness on the part of Hawaii's people regarding America's "freedom movement", in order that we might have the mature realization that what affects the rest of the nation affects us.
- 2) That we assembled here follow up with similar consultations within the areas we represent to discover more specifically how our first proposal can be implemented "within our ranks."
- 3) That we in Hawaii address ourselves to the remnants of racial discrimination within our own state, seeking to devise adequate solutions immediately.
- 4) That we in Hawaii increasingly explore more direct ways to relate ourselves to the civil rights movement on the mainland, bearing witness and sharing in the burdens of those who are oppressed.
- 5) That we assembled here endorse the civil rights bill which passed the U. S. House of Representatives recently, and that we call upon the U. S. Senate also to pass the bill in the same form; and that we assembled here urge individuals and organizations throughout Hawaii to communicate with as many mainland friends as possible to enlist their active support of the passage of this bill.
- 6) That we, upon the call of the coveners of this conference, convene another conference of this nature for the purpose of reviewing the progress made and instituting further action in the civil rights struggle.