INTRODUCTION

E ALU LIKE MAI I KA PONO: COMING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE
A Workbook for the Advancement of Kanaka Maoli People

This book, E Alu Like Mai i Ka Pono: Coming Together For Justice, is the second of what is now a two book set intended to assist Kanaka Maoli individuals and communities in their endeavors to have more self-determination over matters within their own homeland. Our first book, Kupa'a Ma Hope O Ka 'Āina: A Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians, which covered the major environmental laws that affect the Kanaka Maoli people, attempts to provide the basic tools necessary to understand and participate in the State of Hawai'i's environmental decision-making process. Since that time, our Kanaka Maoli communities have recommended that we continue to produce workbook materials that would focus on laws concerning access rights, the State Constitution and the legislative process. This second workbook is our attempt to meet those community recommendations and concerns.

E Alu Like Mai i Ka Pono is intended to increase the voice of our Kanaka Maoli communities in the State of Hawai'i's social and political decision-making processes. In more recent times the Kanaka Maoli people have been attempting to address Kanaka Maoli health, houselessness, and safety concerns through the legislative process. Currently, there are only a handful of Kanaka Maoli participating in the political workings of the State and respective counties and their legislative bureaucracies. These individuals work hard but cannot help but become overwhelmed by the enormous task of attempting to make the legislative and administrative processes responsive to the needs of the Kanaka Maoli.

Therefore, we have put together, albeit in summary fashion, several chapters that focus on different aspects of this unnecessarily complicated political system. Chapter One describes in some detail the legislative process of making, amending, and repealing laws. Chapter Two discusses the duties and responsibilities of a number of State agencies that were created to enforce the laws of the State of Hawai'i. Its focus is on the agencies whose activities most impact the lives and livelihood of the Kanaka Maoli people. Chapter Three provides a basic outline of the law that requires State and county agencies to conduct their respective duties in a manner that is open and
conducive to public participation. Chapter Four discusses one effective method of public participation in decision-making processes; the presentation of written and oral testimony. This chapter includes drafting and presentation tips and suggestions.

Chapters Five through Nine are intended to provide a solid basis for effective Kanaka Maoli participation in decision-making at the administrative level. Chapters Five and Six respectively provide general descriptions and basic explanations of the administrative rule-making and contested case hearing procedures which, when law requires, agencies must follow when determining the rights and responsibilities of disputing parties. Finally, Chapters Seven through Nine discuss laws which directly impact the cultural rights and responsibilities of the Kanaka Maoli people and suggest various strategies to protect and preserve these rights and responsibilities and, in the process, the integrity and vitality of the Kanaka Maoli culture into perpetuity. *E Alu Like Mai i Ka Pono* is designed to complement our previous workbook by following up and updating, where applicable, the environmental laws covered in *Kupa'a Ma Hope O Ka 'Āina*.

These workbooks are not meant to and do not provide the solutions to all the legal and legislative problems which confront the Kanaka Maoli people. These workbooks are not cure-alls, but they are intended to provide support for the struggle to become self-determining people. As the Kanaka Maoli proverb goes: 'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi. All knowledge is not learned in one school (or one workbook). It is our hope, then, that these workbooks assist those Kanaka Maoli communities or individuals who are involved, or decide to become involved, in legislative or administrative processes to successfully participate in these processes.

These workbooks: *Kupa'a Ma Hope O Ka 'Āina* and *E Alu Like Mai i Ka Pono*, are our way of supporting the Kanaka Maoli people as we stand united and strong and utilize available resources to better our conditions and strengthen our nation. Mālama pono a, e ola kō kākou lāhui maoli (Take care and the Kanaka Maoli nation shall live).

---

1 The terms “Kanaka Maoli,” “Native Hawaiian,” and “Hawaiian” are used throughout this workbook to refer to any and all descendants, regardless of blood quantum, of the races inhabiting the Hawaiian Islands previous to 1778.