



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

I Ka Pono: *The Future of Hawaiian Sovereignty*

Saturday, January 30, 2016, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Rasmuson Theater | National Museum of the American Indian
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC**



The Hawaiian Kingdom, founded by King Kamehameha I in 1810, was a self-governing nation until January 17, 1893, when U.S. diplomats and Marines supported non-Native businessmen in the overthrow of the Hawaiian government. This symposium, held in conjunction with the National Museum of the American Indian's new exhibition, *E Mau Ke Ea: The Sovereign Hawaiian Nation*, features Native Hawaiian scholars, leaders, activists, and culture keepers Williamson Chang, Clyde Namu'ō, Jonathan Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, and Mahealani Wendt. The symposium title—derived from the second half of a phrase from King Kamehameha III that has become the Hawaiian state motto—suggests “towards what is right, correct, proper.” The symposium examines the resurgence of Native Hawaiian nationalism today and offers a variety of perspectives on what the future of Hawaiian sovereignty might best look like. National Museum of the American Indian Curator Douglas Herman moderates the program.

Live webcast at: <http://nmai.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts>

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PROGRAM

Opening Chant

Manu Ikaika, Native Hawaiian tradition bearer, community leader, and Kumu Hula for Halau Ho'omau I ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i.

Welcome

Kevin Gover, Director, National Museum of the American Indian

Introduction

Douglas Herman, Senior Geographer, National Museum of the American Indian

A Century of Occupation: The Failure of the United States to Acquire the Hawaiian Islands

Williamson Chang, University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law

The Case for Federal Recognition

Clyde Namu'ō, Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Roll Commission

Break (15 minutes)

Nation or Governance: A Critical Choice

Jonathan Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, University of Hawai'i Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

Sovereignty Lives in the Resilience of Kua`āina, the People of the Land

Mahealani Wendt, Community Advocate and Poet

Panel Discussion/Audience Q&A

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Williamson B. C. Chang, professor at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, graduated from Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley Law School. He clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Dick Yin Wong in Honolulu and began teaching at the University of Hawai'i the following year. In his earlier years he was a special deputy attorney general representing the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, a special legislative assistant to the United States Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, and a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Western Australia. As of late he has pursued a deep interest in Native Hawaiian sovereignty, teaching courses in Water Rights, the Legal History of Hawai'i, and in Nation Building. He is presently a delegate to the 2016 Native Hawaiian Constitutional Convention and is currently working on a revised history of modern Hawai'i that challenges United States jurisdiction over the Hawaiian Islands.

Kevin Gover, who is a member of the Pawnee Nation, is the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and a former professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU). He served on the faculty of the university's Indian Legal Program and was co-executive director of ASU's American Indian Policy Institute. Before joining the university faculty, Gover served as assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1997 to 2000. A presidential appointee, he was responsible for policy and operational oversight of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he oversaw programs in Indian education, law enforcement, social services, treaty rights, and trust asset management.

Douglas Herman is senior geographer for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. He earned a master's degree and a doctorate in Geography at the University of Hawai'i, and was the first graduate student ever to use Hawaiian language to satisfy a PhD language requirement. In 2000 Herman created Pacific Worlds, a web-based indigenous-geography education project for Hawai'i and the American Pacific that focuses on indigenous cultural knowledge and understandings. That project has led him to do community-based research not only in the Hawaiian Islands but also in four islands in Micronesia. From 2000-2005 he participated in ceremony at Pu'u Koholā temple on Hawai'i Island. Herman has published numerous articles on Western discourses about the Hawaiian Islands. In 2013 he built his own outrigger canoe, and he currently publishes and lectures on traditional Oceanic navigation and what it teaches humanity about how to live on planet Earth.

Clyde William Namu'o is the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission. He is also the chief executive officer of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, a Hawai'i nonprofit organization established in 1973 "to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their

communities to respect and care for themselves, each other, and their natural and cultural environment.” From 2001 to 2011, he served as chief executive officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Before this, Namu’o was the deputy administrative director of the courts, State of Hawaii. He serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Family Promise of Hawai’i and the Kukui Children’s Foundation.

Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo’ole Osorio is a professor at the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. Osorio holds a PhD in History from the University of Hawai’i. At Kamakakūokalani, he has developed and taught classes in history, literature, law as culture, music as historical texts, and research methodologies for and from indigenous peoples. His recent publications include *The Value of Hawai’i: Knowing the Past and Shaping the Future*, which he co-edited and authored, and *Dismembering Lāhui: A History of the Hawaiian Nation to 1887*. He is also a composer and singer and has been a Hawaiian music recording artist since 1975.

Mahealani Wendt was the executive director of Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) for 32 years before retiring in December 2009. She was the first Native Hawaiian board member of the Native American Rights Fund. Wendt has been recognized with numerous awards including Outstanding Hawaiian Woman for Community Service; Liberty Bell Award from the Hawai’i State Bar Association; Kalanianaʻole Award from the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Native Hawaiian Advocate Award from the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement; and Hawai’i Women Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award. She has published poetry and stories in more than a dozen literary journals and anthologies.



Front cover photo: `Iolani Palace draped in black for the anniversary recognition of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, January 2003. Photo by R.D.K. Herman, Pacific Worlds.