ADVANCEMENT YES MILITARIZATION NO
Protect the Aina • Protect the People • Stop Military Expansion

The federally-funded Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is holding its annual conference in Waikiki this week. According to the group’s website, “CNHA’s mission is to promote the advancement of Native Hawaiians through empowerment and informational initiatives.” But the actions of CNHA and key politicians who support military spending in Hawai‘i – particularly Senator Inouye and Rep. Abercrombie – raise serious questions about their role in our home.

WHY IS CNHA TAKING MONEY FROM THE MILITARY?

By accepting military contracts through its subsidiary Homestead Technologies, CNHA is binding Native Hawaiians tighter into the web of military dependency.

WHY IS CNHA SILENT ON THE STRYKER LAND GRAB?

Ever since U.S. troops invaded Hawai‘i in 1893 and turned their guns on the ‘Iolani Palace, the military has stood in the way of true Hawaiian sovereignty and justice. In fact, most of the military land in Hawai‘i consists of Hawaiian Crown and Government Lands (the so-called "ceded lands"). The threatened expansion (Stryker Brigades, missile defense, and nuclear aircraft carrier group) would destroy even more land, cultural sites and endangered species with bombs, fires and toxic pollution.

FEDERALIZATION FACILITATES MILITARIZATION

The Akaka-Stevens Bill seals the effects of the illegal overthrow and annexation of our homeland, by ceding the Crown and Government Lands to the federal government, and by extinguishing our legitimate claims to these lands. Section 8c of HR 4282, the most recent version of the Akaka-Stevens Bill, even includes a 20-year statute of limitations on claims against the federal government.

We have a long history of resistance to the extension of federal authority over our people and our land – from the protests of our Queen, to the anti-annexation petitions, to the fight for Kahoolawe, Kalama Valley, Waiahole-Waikane, to the Onipaa march of 1993 – yet federal recognition undoes this century of work.

Once the land is federalized, how will we prevent it from being militarized?

USE MILITARY MONIES FOR HUMAN NEEDS

$1.5 billion is allocated for a Stryker Brigade. How many teachers could be hired with $1.5 billion? How much healthcare does that pay for, how much prescription drugs for our kupuna could that buy? How much food could we grow on the land that is being taken? Real security means having our basic needs met. Our people deserve real alternatives.

WE DESERVE REAL ADVANCEMENT

Our people deserve real economic development, one which meets the human needs of a community. Money is not the only indicator of a healthy community – we deserve a homeland that is not littered with ordnance and radioactive materials, and an economy which doesn’t force us to trade the life of the land for a basic living.
THE MILITARY AND HAWAIIAN LAND

In 1893, the flagship of the American fleet supported the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani's government. Since then, the US has increased military holdings in Hawai'i, as a launching point for American ambitions in the Pacific and beyond.

The U.S. military already controls 200,000 acres of land in Hawai'i and nearly 25% of the land on O'ahu. This places Hawai'i in the same league as other military-occupied territories like Okinawa, Puerto Rico and Guam. 54% of the military's land-holdings consist of stolen Hawaiian national lands (“ceded lands”).

Access to the beach at Nohili, Kaua'i and the mountains above Keawa'ula, O'ahu have been restricted since 9/11/01. Missile defense tests and harmful sonar experiments are conducted off of Kaua'i. Military-related research is conducted on sacred mountains: Mauna Kea and Haleakala.

After bombing Kaho'olawe for years, the Navy spent $400 million and still failed to clean up the unexploded bombs to a safe level as was promised in a legal agreement.

A TRAIL OF DEVASTATION

The Marine Corps condemned the Kamaka family land in Waikane after leasing it for live fire training and contaminating it with unexploded munitions.

When Makua residents were evicted during World War II, the Army promised to return the land 6 months after the war. But the Army still bombs and contaminates Makua. Live fire training, toxic chemicals, fires and unexploded ordnance threaten human health and safety, endangered species and Hawaiian cultural practices.

With over 36 fish ponds, Ke Awalau o Pu‘u‘loa (Pearl Harbor) was once a rich source of food for O'ahu in ancient times. Today, under military control, Pearl Harbor has become extremely contaminated, with nearly 750 contaminated sites (several of which are Superfund sites) identified by the Navy. It is no longer safe to eat anything from Pearl Harbor.

TAKE BACK OUR LIVES FROM MILITARISM

- No Military Expansion!
- Clean Up, Restore and Return the ‘aina.
- End Hawai'i’s dependency on military spending by redirecting funds to environmental clean up and community based economic alternatives based on human needs
- The military must pay just compensation for its use and damage to Hawaiian lands.

ALOHA AINA