



# International Indian Treaty Council

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NATION OF HAWAII TO HOST THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY CONFERENCE AND THE TARO CONFERENCE ON PACIFIC FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

**San Francisco, California and Waimanalo, Hawaii, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** The Nation of Hawaii, a long-standing affiliate of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), will host the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Treaty Conference at Pu'uhonua Village in Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii from September 9 - 11, 2016. The theme of the Conference is ***"Implementing our Rights as Indigenous Peoples and Rebuilding our National Sovereignty, He Hawai'i Au"***.

Immediately before the Treaty Conference, September 7- 8, the Nation will also host the ***"Taro is the Ancestor that Nourishes Us (Na ke kalo ko mākou 'aumakua) Conference, Protecting Indigenous Peoples Food Sovereignty, Traditional Knowledge and Practices in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific."***

Presenters and participants will include Indigenous leaders, activists, knowledge holders and community members from Hawaii, Papua New Guinea, Maluku, Aotearoa (New Zealand), mainland US, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Barbados and Borinken (Puerto Rico). IITC's Treaty Conferences are hosted every two years in the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples. Most recently they have taken place in Okemah Oklahoma, Oaxaca Mexico, Kuna Yala Panama, Chimaltenango and Quetzaltenango Guatemala, Bear Butte South Dakota, Fall River Mills California, Wairoa Aotearoa, Ermineskin Cree Nation Canada and Ft. Drum Florida.

Pu'uhonua o Waimanalo Village (POWV) is located on land returned to the Nation of Hawaii on June 13, 1993, by the State of Hawaii. This was a historic response to a 15-month occupation of Kaupo Beach Park on Oahu in which IITC staff and Board members also participated. That same year the 1<sup>st</sup> IITC Treaty Conference in Hawaii at Kualoa Beach Park to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the 1893 invasion and occupation of Hawaii by the United States despite a "Peace and Friendship Treaty" with the Kingdom of Hawaii which was ratified by the US Congress in 1884.

Hawaiian Nation Head of State and IITC Board member Pu'uhonua "Bumpy" Kanahale expressed the importance of hosting this year's Treaty Conference focusing on restoring Indigenous Peoples' National Sovereignty: "The only long-term solution for the threats we continue to face, including to our sacred places, Treaty rights, traditional foods, lands and waters, environmental integrity and economic, social and cultural development is to restore our National Sovereignty and implement the full rights of Self-Determination and Governance for the Hawaiian People. We are looking forward to sharing our progress towards re-establishing the Hawaiian Nation as an independent State. We are also calling upon the President of the United States to reopen the US Peace Treaty with the Hawaiian Nation that continues to be violated. We welcome everyone to our land and are looking forward to discussing the issues affecting all of us and to hearing from other Indigenous Nations who are also working for decolonization."

During the Conference, Article 73 of the UN Charter on decolonization, the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Treaties concluded between Indigenous Nations and settler

governments will be discussed as the basis for restoring Indigenous Nations' full political rights and status under international law based on the inherent right to Self-Determination.

Presentations and Commissions (breakout sessions) will also address protection of sacred places, repatriation, food sovereignty, criminal justice, environmental health, sustainable development and Indigenous trade, children's rights, youth organizing and advances in international work. Cultural presentations, ceremonies, songs and stories will be an important part of both Conferences. At the conclusion of the Treaty Conference, resolutions will be adopted by consensus on key areas for the rights of Indigenous Peoples which will guide the work of IITC in the coming two years.

The Taro Conference will bring together Indigenous food producers, knowledge holders, activists, youth and elders to share information, traditional knowledge and strategies to defend Taro and other foods vital to the ways of life of Pacific and other Indigenous Peoples. A special focus will be on the impacts of climate change in the Pacific and other regions, and strategies to respond to these impacts using traditional knowledge, food sources and practices.

The IITC is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Arctic, Caribbean and Pacific working for the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, Treaties, traditional cultures and sacred lands. Since its founding in South Dakota in June 1974, the IITC has worked to support the rights and recognition of Indigenous Peoples through information sharing, training and capacity building, legal and technical assistance, coalition building, standard setting (including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), policy development and filing Human Rights submissions to UN Human Rights bodies addressing a range of urgent and ongoing concerns.

In 1977, the IITC became the first Indigenous Peoples' organization to be recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. In 2011, IITC was the first to be upgraded to General Consultation Status in recognition of its active participation in a wide range of international bodies and processes in order to advance, defend and recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The IITC's guiding principles affirm that *Indigenous Peoples speak for themselves before the world community*. To that end, IITC organizes, strengthens and facilitates direct participation by Indigenous Peoples in local, regional, national and international events and gatherings where issues impacting their rights and survival are addressed.

Both Conferences are free and open to all interested participants. Translation will be provided in Spanish and English. For more information on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and Taro Conferences including agendas, information for participants and a site map, please visit [www.treatycouncil.org](http://www.treatycouncil.org).

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