



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

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### **NA'I AUPUNI STATEMENT ON U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION TO CONTINUE TO BLOCK HAWAIIAN ELECTION VOTE COUNT**

**HONOLULU** – Na'i Aupuni is a Native Hawaiian organization made up of a volunteer board of directors with a mission to establish a path for Native Hawaiian self-determination. The following statement is in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to continue a stay on the counting of votes in the election of delegates to the 'Aha, or constitutional convention until after a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears the matter.

*"Na'i Aupuni stands by its commitment to provide a legal process for Native Hawaiians to elect leaders to convene to reorganize a government. We believe the process aligns with the U.S. Constitution and that the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ultimately will let the election process proceed. We will ask the appeals court to expedite the hearing so that votes can be counted and the constitutional convention, or 'Aha, can proceed this summer.*

*"Native Hawaiian self-governance has been discussed for over 120 years. We encourage voters to cast their ballots before the Dec. 21 deadline. Your vote is the mana to unify us."*

#### **About Na'i Aupuni**

Na'i Aupuni is an independent organization made up of a volunteer board of directors from the Hawaiian community. It exists solely to help establish a path for Hawaiian self-determination and is guiding an election, convention and ratification process where all Hawaiians who wish to participate can be heard. Na'i Aupuni was formed in December 2014 and is separate and independent from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the State of Hawaii. For further information about Na'i Aupuni and the upcoming elections, please visit <http://www.naiaupuni.org/>.

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