



NEWS RELEASE

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NA'I AUPUNI STATEMENT ON GRASSROOT FILING MOTION TO STOP HAWAIIANS FROM MEETING

HONOLULU – Na'i Aupuni is a Native Hawaiian organization made up of a volunteer board of directors with a mission to provide a path for Native Hawaiians to discuss self-governance. The following statement is in response to a civil contempt motion filed in the U.S. Supreme Court to stop Native Hawaiians from participating in a meeting to discuss a path to self-governance.

"The Supreme Court's December 2 order enjoined Na'i Aupuni from counting the ballots cast in, and certifying the winners of, the election until the Ninth Circuit could rule on Hawaii Federal Judge Seabright's denial of the Akina plaintiffs' motion to enjoin the start of the election. Thereafter, on December 15, Na'i Aupuni terminated the election, and offered all candidates – none of whom were elected by voters – an opportunity to gather to discuss, among other matters, a path to self-governance. Nothing in the Supreme Court order prohibits Na'i Aupuni from making this offer and organizing the gathering. Civil contempt is only appropriate where the court order clearly and unambiguously prohibits the proposed action. Akina plaintiffs' motion is without merit and we will oppose the motion to ensure that the February gathering will go forward."

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 to an 'aha, where Hawaiians can discuss and explore various options of self-determination. Na'i Aupuni was formed in December 2014 and is separate and independent from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the State of Hawaii. Further information about Na'i Aupuni and the 'aha can be found at <http://www.naiaupuni.org/>.

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