WASHINGTON, D.C. BUREAU
March 20, 2009

MISSION
To increase support for causes important to Native Hawaiians and promote passage of favorable legislation at the national level.

FY-08 HIGHLIGHTS
The Washington, D.C. Bureau advocated for passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (NHGRA) and other measures important to Native Hawaiians and worked to prevent abolition of Native Hawaiian courts from existing U.S. law. The Bureau supported and protected Native American political status, sovereignty, and recognition of self-determination of the independent, Native Hawaiian people whose ancestors lived and exercised sovereignty in the Hawaiian territories that later became part of the United States.

Educated U.S. Congress and Executive Branch on issues important to Native Hawaiians
- Distributed NHGRA Hearing, the first hearing on Native Hawaiian issues in Congress in 30 years.
- Helped Native Hawaiian Communities in the U.S. Congress and Administrations.
- Assisted members of the Kamehameha Community and small business administration, and the Native Hawaiian Small Business and Native Hawaiian Business Development Committee to obtain Hawaiian business development.
- Advised and tested the Department of Defense in developing the Joint National Hawaiian Consultants program.

Maintained and expanded a network of allies supporting Native Hawaiian issues at the national level
- Hosted or sponsored more than 30 events, including the first HAPEC New York networking event.
- Hosted dozens of Native Hawaiians and other visitors in Washington, D.C., and attended Native Hawaiian events for the first time by showcasing programs with American University and George Washington University.
- Chaired the Committee of Pacific Islanders and Committee (HCC), a powerful bipartisan event attended by 60.
- Reached out to overcome resistance to issues important to Native Hawaiians.

MISSION
OHA's 2010-2015 Plan Goal 2.3 is to "secure legislation that recognizes the unique sovereignty of Native Hawaiian communities and supports self-governance for Native Hawaiian communities in the U.S. The Washington, D.C. Bureau has worked to this plan goal by advocating for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, which was signed into law.

FY-08 HIGHLIGHTS
- Briefed allies on NHGRA status and issues relating to Native Hawaiian interests, including attendance at the signing of NHGRA by President Obama.
- Distributed OHA and NDHEP joint letter of support for NHGRA to Congress and U.S. Senate members, including Senators Barack Obama and Daniel Akaka, co-sponsors of NHGRA and NHGRA supporters in the House and Senate.
- Educated Hawaii’s public and Congressional staff on the history, goals, and benefits of NHGRA to the U.S. Congress in the spring of 2008.
- Educated and supported the Hawaii State Advisory Committee (HASC) on a bill asking the U.S. Congress to pass NHGRA and support the rights of Native Hawaiians.
- Met with OHA leaders to discuss strategies to increase the number of support for NHGRA in Congress and the Administration.
- Maintained a network of allies to support NHGRA and other initiatives important to Native Hawaiians.

Next Steps
- Continue to educate and engage allies on NHGRA and other initiatives important to Native Hawaiians.
- Continue to support the Hawaii State Advisory Committee (HASC) and other initiatives important to Native Hawaiians.