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April 10, 2007

The Honorable Linda Lingle,  
Governor of the State of Hawaii

Via FAX and Certified Mail

Re: Application for payments and benefits equal to those  
exclusively for "native Hawaiians" and "Hawaiians."

Aloha Governor Lingle:

Thank you for your letter dated March 30, 2007.

I'm encouraged that you say, in the last sentence of your letter, that "Under existing law, no person ... whether native Hawaiian, Hawaiian or non-Hawaiian, would be entitled to such a disbursement." The disbursements and benefits I had in mind, and still request, are for every other Hawaii citizen equivalent to those now going to OHA and DHHL and other federal, state or local agencies exclusively for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.

My clients do not seek to take anything away from native Hawaiians or Hawaiians but simply to receive, for each of them and others similarly situated, the same allocations of public money, land, rights, privileges and immunities now going exclusively for "native Hawaiians" and "Hawaiians." My clients would appreciate a clarification of how you intend to fulfill in Hawaii the promise of the United States Constitution that every person is entitled to the equal protection of the laws.

Very truly yours,



H. William Burgess

cc: Alberto R. Gonzales, Esq., Attorney General of the United States  
Mark J. Bennett, Esq., Attorney General of the State of Hawaii  
Carrie K.S. Okinaga, Esq., Corp. Counsel, City & County of Honolulu