



THE KINGDOM OF HAWAI‘I

From the desk of the King

September 12, 2025

REFLECTIONS ON HAWAIIAN IDENTITY AND SERVICE

Questioning American Identity

The question, “Why do I not want to be an American?” invites thoughtful reflection about belonging and duty. My years of service in the United States Army — and the oath I swore to defend the Constitution — deepened my sense of responsibility to America, yet even more so to my homeland, Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i, once a sovereign nation, stands vulnerable without NATO protection. As King today, I carry a solemn kuleana (responsibility) to shield our islands from harm, such as communism, socialism, and any destructive forms of governance, and to preserve our culture, values, and independence. My military service, which began on January 3, 1973, was shaped by childhood memories of the trauma left by the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Serving was an honorable duty — a way to prevent future foreign aggression and to protect the people I love.

Spiritual Leader of the Hawaiian Archipelago Islands — The Kingdom of Hawai‘i —
South Pacific Rim of Polynesians Islands, and Indigenous Nations Worldwide

Nou ke Akua Ke Aupuni O Hawai‘i

Although I served in the United States Army, I have always recognized that Hawai'i stands apart from the United States under international law. The Kingdom of Hawai'i was never lawfully annexed by treaty, and to this day, the United States' claim over our islands is disputed. Because NATO's collective defense treaty applies only to the recognized territories of its member nations, Hawai'i is not protected under NATO agreements. This leaves our islands uniquely vulnerable to outside threats, as no international defense pact currently guarantees our security. My sense of duty arose from this reality — to defend my homeland even when global powers overlook its sovereignty.

Yet, my Hawaiian heritage surpasses my American allegiance. Being Hawaiian means carrying forward our unique customs, language, traditions, and sacred relationship to the 'āina (land). The true spirit of Hawai'i lives in its people, and the concept of Aloha represents enduring love, compassion, and loyalty to both the land and the Kingdom.

Native Hawaiian Service During World War II

During World War II, thousands of Native Hawaiians of mixed ancestry answered the call to serve in the United States military. They made up 12% of all conscripted men from Hawai'i. They volunteered or were drafted into units such as the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. At least 22 soldiers of Hawaiian-Japanese descent fought in Europe, while others joined the Hawaiian National Guard after Pearl Harbor. By 1946, over 2,000 Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian soldiers had served.

The Legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team

The 100th Battalion was formed in 1942, composed mainly of Japanese Americans from Hawai'i. The 442nd was activated in 1943 and later merged with the 100th. Though largely made up of Japanese Hawaiians, the 442nd also included soldiers of Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino, and Portuguese ancestry. Their motto, "Go for broke," comes from Hawaiian pidgin, meaning to risk everything for success.



These soldiers not only faced fierce battles overseas but also prejudice at home. Yet they became the most decorated unit of their size and length of service in U.S. military history. Their courage came from a desire to protect their families and to prove their loyalty, hoping that their sacrifices might one day restore dignity — and perhaps even sovereignty — to their homeland.

Like other First Nations, Native Hawaiians longed for the return of their ancestral lands. Sadly, discrimination and oppression meant their service was often overlooked, and their hopes went unfulfilled.

Honoring Ancestral Dreams

My father and uncles served honorably in the U.S. Army and Marines, driven by a wish to protect Hawai'i. Even as they served America, they held onto the hope that the Kingdom they were born into might one day be restored.

Honoring my heritage, my ancestors (*iwi kupuna*), and all who dreamed of Hawai'i's return, that hope became reality on November 22, 2002. On that day, Ali'i Mana'o Nui Lanny Sinkin — Federal U.S. Attorney and Chief Advisor (House of Nobles) — delivered the Kingdom's Constitution and Declaration of Independence to both Washington, D.C., and the United Nations in New York City. This marked a ceremonial act of restoration for our people.

These actions honored the long history of treaties once signed between the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the United States:

- The 1849 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation, which established formal diplomatic and trade relations
- The 1875 Treaty of Reciprocity, which allowed duty-free imports of Hawaiian sugar and reciprocal U.S. goods
- The 1887 extension of that treaty, which granted the U.S. exclusive rights to use Pearl Harbor as a naval base



When, in 1993, the U.S. Congress issued Public Law 103-150, the Apology Resolution, formally acknowledging and apologizing for its wrongful actions in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i—it acted with justice and honor.

My ancestors appeared to me in dreams, offering a vision of the Kingdom's restoration.
That vision is now fulfilled—the Kingdom lives on, and I am the King.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Mahalo iā 'oe, e ka Makua Makua, no kāu aloha iā mākou a pau.

Edmund K. Paki-Silva II

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*Naliko lauokalani Pākī Ka'ī 'Ōmaka-olahou-Kahuaokalani-Ka'ī-
mano-'ānu'ū-ka-lamakea-i-ho'okū-ke-aupuni-o-Hawai'i*

His Majesty, Beatitude, Dignity of Archbishop
Head of the Polynesian Apostolic See
Patriarchate of the West Indies
Byzantine Orthodox Christine Apostolic Church of the Americas
By Royal Melchizedek Priesthood

Temple High Priest and Steward, *Kahu Ahu'ena heiau Kamakahonu*, Hawai'i

cc:

Royal Chancellor – *Lei Ali'i Keli'i*

Ali'i Mana'o Nui – Lanny Sinkin

Chief Justice – Joshua R. Kotter, Esq., J.D., MBA, Attorney at Law

Speaker of the House, Celestial Council – *Kahu Lani o na palapala hemolele a me ka ike*

Na Kupuna Council O Hawai'i Nei ame Moku

Grand Knight Commander

Attorney General

Ministries of The Kingdom of Hawai'i

