



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREW IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
PACIFIC JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION CENTER PRESENT
A FREE PUBLIC VIEWING OF *HAWAII A VOICE FOR SOVEREIGNTY***

This screening is a project of The Pacific Peace Forum



HONOLULU: 11/11/2014 — We are honored to announce the free public screening of *Hawaii A Voice For Sovereignty* on Friday, November 21 at 6 pm in the Von Holt Room of St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral, 229 Queen Emma Square. The screening is being presented during "The Feast of the Holy Sovereigns" which is celebrated annually in the Episcopal Church in Hawaii on November 28 to celebrate the founders of the Anglican Church in the islands; King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma.

Through the voices of the native Hawaiians, the Kanaka Maoli, *Hawaii A Voice For Sovereignty* tells the compelling story of the Hawaiian people's arduous journey to be recognized as sovereign people and their goal to reestablish the once-sustainable Hawaiian culture that existed for over 1000 years before the overthrow of the peaceful Hawaiian Kingdom by the U.S. Government in 1893.

Producer-Director Catherine Bauknight said, "I have witnessed firsthand what happens when a small, sustainable society is separated from their land, fresh water and ocean resources and converted for profit by western powers. Today, with over 8 million tourists a year crowding their small and ecologically-fragile islands, the Hawaiians are disconnected from their own land and suffer some of the highest rates per capita of poverty, homelessness, health issues related to diet, and incarceration in the state. My goal is to continue to share this tragic story to assist the Hawaiian's ongoing struggle for sovereign rights and their efforts as stewards of the land to protect what's left from further destruction."

VIEW THE TRAILER AT

<http://www.hawaiiavoiceforsovereignty.com/Hawaii_A_Voice_For_Sovereignty/Homepage.html>

Formal invitations to the screening have been sent to the heads of state of the 16 sovereign nations which had treaties or other official diplomatic recognition with the Hawaiian Kingdom at the time of the overthrow. They are:

Austria-Hungary	Netherlands
Belgium	Portugal
Denmark	Russia
France	Samoa
Germany	Spain
Great Britain	Swiss Confederation
Italy	Sweden and Norway
Japan	United States

After the 83-minute screening, a panel of local leaders with international perspectives will convene for a Q & A to discuss the complex issues and how the native Hawaiian people might move forward in their effort to achieve a fair resolution to their historic cultural, economic, and social grievances. "Our

land and our spiritual beliefs are all one in the same. It can't be separated", Kumu Charles Ka`upu reveals in the film. With other invitations out, two of the panelists have been confirmed to date:

1) Dr. Williamson Chang is a Professor of Law at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. Born in Honolulu he is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley. He teaches Hawaiian rights, indigenous people's law, the legal Aspects of Water resources in Hawai'i and more. He is an active member of the Hawaiian community and will share his knowledge of international law.

2) Leon Siu was born in Hawai'i and lived most of his life in the islands. His Hawaiian culture and musical background have kept him in close contact with the Hawaiian community. He has dedicated much of his recent life to researching and connecting with numerous international organizations including the United Nations. Siu often represents the Hawaiian Nationals while seeking the true status of Hawai'i as it relates to international law.

Since its theatrical release in 2012, *Hawaii A Voice For Sovereignty* has become a megaphone for the once-silent voice of the native Hawaiians during select screenings in centers of communication and education around the world -- including its original premiere at the United States Capitol Building in Washington, DC, the Pigorini National Museum of History and Ethnography in Rome, the Kana'ina Building on the grounds of Honolulu's `Iolani Palace (home of the Hawaiian monarchs) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues events in New York City and Geneva Switzerland. Additionally, the film has received accolades throughout the U.S., New Zealand and it recently received its 8th award; "Best Global Documentary Film Creating Change" during the *Pacific Talent Film Festival* in Los Angeles.

Awards include:

Audience Award Best Hawai'i Film • **Maui Film Festival**

Best Documentary Film • **New York Independent International Video and Film Festival**

Best Environmental Film • **New York Independent International Video and Film Festival**

Mana Wairoa Award • **Maori Film Festival (New Zealand)**

Best Global Documentary Film Creating Change • **Pacific Talent Film Festival**

Best Environmental Film • **Red Nation Film Festival**

Best Film • **American Indian Movement Film Festival**

Allen Willis Documentary Award • **Berkeley Video and Film Festival**

The film has been collected by many universities and libraries including the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, Kamehameha Schools, and the International Library of New Zealand. With a rich soundtrack including the music of Richard Ho`opi`i, George Kahumoku, Skippy Ioane, Willie K, Ke`eaumoku Kapu, Cyril Pahinui, Lono, Charles Ka`upu, Makana, Hanalei Collead, Keali`i Blaisdell, Wilmont Kahaiali`i, Kamuela Rodrigues, and Mark Keali`i Ho`omalua, the film continues its journey around the world joining the growing international movement for sovereign rights.

**Please join us for the screening of *Hawaii A Voice For Sovereignty*.
We will share a memorable evening.**

ABOUT CATHERINE BAUKNIGHT



With myriad photo credits for *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People Magazine* and her work often featured in *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and *The Huffington Post*, in 2014, Bauknight was honored with a *Certificate of Recognition* for her photographic coverage of the Tiananmen Square Massacre during the *Art And Democracy Exhibit On the 25th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre and Fall of the Berlin Wall*. Her work was featured at an exhibit at the Building Bridges Art Foundation Gallery at the Bergamot Station Arts Center, Santa Monica, CA. May 20 - July 2014.

In 2008, Bauknight received the *Honorary Commendation for Humanitarian Activism Award* presented by the Visual Artists Guild of Los Angeles in recognition of her efforts in Hawaii, China, Ethiopia, and with the Catawba Indians, "to document the humanitarian plight of oppressed and forgotten peoples and to communicate through photography the stories which are often overlooked by society."

How Bauknight came to document the plight of the Hawaiian people is a fascinating story in itself. Bauknight said, "I visited Maui for a vacation after years of overseas assignments covering disease, loss of environmental and human rights and the oppression of those who had no voice. During a moment of solitude on the beach, I suddenly realized there was very little visible representation of the host culture in Hawaii; the Hawaiians. After asking "why" and getting no answers, I felt there must be an important reason that the native Hawaiians were practically invisible in their own land. During the following 18-months of research and interviews, several Kanaka Maoli finally agreed to talk to me on camera. Soon, some of their families and friends wanted to 'talk story' about the suffering of the Hawaiian people and the strong cultural heritage that has given them the strength to carry on. The common thread I heard throughout the islands was the need for the Hawaiian's sovereign rights."

The film took 4 years to shoot and for the two years after the public release in 2012, Bauknight has worked to share the little-known story with the world to help raise awareness of the Hawaiian's plight. The movement is evolving within Hawai'i and people are connecting to create a governmental process for the native Hawaiians. They are becoming initiators in this process and now the indigenous people of other countries are carefully watching the Hawaiians for guidance.

NOTE: Filmed before James Cameron's *Avatar*, many have compared the Hawaiian's real-world struggle to the compelling message of Cameron's eye-opening fictional movie.

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