



ALASKA FEDERATION  
OF NATIVES

December 15, 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman  
The Honorable John Barrasso, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Letter of Support on S. 1011 Mark-up by U. S.  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs**

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Vice Chairman Barrasso:

On behalf of the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the oldest and largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, I am writing to express the support of AFN on the mark-up of S. 1011, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act. We understand that the Committee has scheduled a mark-up of S. 1011 and that Senator Daniel K. Akaka and Senator Daniel K. Inouye will offer a substitute amendment to S. 1011 on December 17, 2009.

The substitute amendment provides additional clarifications in light of the Congressional hearings held earlier this year. The substitute amendment is a product of collaborative actions with the Obama Administration and the Hawaii Congressional Delegation. AFN fully supports the Akaka-Inouye substitute amendment to S. 1011, as this action will lead to the equitable treatment of Native Hawaiians on an equal footing with Alaska Natives and American Indians. Native Hawaiians are just as indigenous, and just as aboriginal, as any other Native American group. There is no responsible justification for their continued exclusion.

We hope that the U. S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will give favorable consideration to this important legislation. It represents more than 20 years of effort by Native Hawaiians to achieve the status under Federal law that now applies only to the other two groups of indigenous people in our country.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding this letter, please call me at AFN at 907-274-3611.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka  
President