

MAZIE K. HIRONO
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONGRESSWOMAN HIRONO RESPONDS TO DISMISSAL OF
LAWSUIT CHALLENGING ADMISSIONS POLICY OF
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS**

Washington, D.C.-- The following statement was released today by Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono regarding the dismissal of the lawsuit challenging the admissions policy of Kamehameha Schools before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“I’m extremely pleased with today’s settlement. This means this legal case is over and the school’s admissions policy stands.

Our Congressional delegation filed an amicus brief in support of Kamehameha Schools urging the Supreme Court NOT to review the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling upholding the admissions policy and restating our position that Native Hawaiians are indigenous peoples, as are Alaska Natives and American Indians.

As a member of the House Education Committee, and a long-time proponent of quality education, I believe that, with this dismissal, Kamehameha Schools can focus on its mission to provide Hawaiian children educational opportunities and expand their programs to reach more beneficiaries.

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The need for the Akaka bill remains critical. The dismissal doesn't mean we are out of the woods as far as legal threats to other programs that assist Native Hawaiians.

I along with Congressman Abercrombie and Senators Inouye and Akaka are committed to attain formal federal recognition of Native Hawaiians as indigenous people.

We look forward to Congress stating once and for all that Native Hawaiians have a legal and political relationship with the United States, erasing all claims that opponents have raised that various programs helping Hawaiians are so-called "race-based." The Akaka bill will provide that protection."

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