



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Upholds Dismissal of Lawsuits Challenging Benefits to Citizens of Hawaiian Ancestry

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today upheld Judge David Ezra's dismissals of two lawsuits challenging programs that benefit citizens of Hawaiian ancestry. The Court agreed that plaintiffs John Carroll and Patrick Barrett lacked standing to challenge the constitutionality of the programs. Attorney General Mark Bennett stated: "I am pleased that the Ninth Circuit agreed with Judge Ezra that these challenges to programs that benefit citizens of Hawaiian ancestry must be dismissed." Bennett also stated: "It is our hope that similar challenges to programs that benefit those of Hawaiian ancestry currently pending in federal court will also be dismissed. It is unclear whether this decision will have any impact in those cases, but regardless, it is clearly a step in the right direction." The case was handled on appeal by Deputy Attorney General Girard Lau.

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