

Maunakea Management Board

Late Written Testimony

January 4, 2022

meeting: Jan 4 2022**M. Kalani Souza** <mks@olohana.org>

Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 3:18

To: Center for Maunakea Stewardship <cmshilo@hawaii.edu>, Hank Hawaiian <hankhawaiian@yahoo.com>, Susan Rosier <808susan@gmail.com>

Please find below the attached written testimony for submission. Rest assured that I will be getting only three minutes of Spoken testimony. Thank you for your attention to this it is much appreciated.
aloha, Rev. M. Kalani Souza

At the outset I understand that you're tired of hearing from angry Hawaiians. At the mere mention of the illegality of the State of Hawaii you tune out. I understand that regardless of the validity of our long standing legal argument you believe the consequences will never fall on you. Probably because so far they never have.

I believe things are changing. Let me quote from The Guardian, a mainstream British publication, from an article today, Jan 4th, regarding the changing political winds in the United States.

"The next US civil war is already here – we just refuse to see it."

"The right has recognized that the system is in collapse, and it has a plan: violence and solidarity with treasonous far-right factions Nobody wants what's coming, so nobody wants to see what's coming.

On the eve of the first civil war, the most intelligent, the most informed, the most dedicated people in the United States could not see it coming. Even when Confederate soldiers began their bombardment of Fort Sumter, nobody believed that conflict was inevitable. The north was so unprepared for the war they had no weapons. In Washington, in the winter of 1861, Henry Adams, the grandson of John Quincy Adams, declared that "not one man in America wanted the civil war or expected or intended it". South Carolina senator James Chestnut, who did more than most to bring on the advent of the catastrophe, promised to drink all the blood spilled in the entire conflict. The common wisdom at the time was that he would have to drink "not a thimble".

The United States today is, once again, headed for civil war, and, once again, it cannot bear to face it."

I know that as acting agents of the United States you don't believe you'll be held accountable, but as acting leadership of the people of Hawaii you are responsible for more than just the present moment. Indulge me a moment while I explain that the power structure that has sheltered you may soon be unable to do so. I will also post links to additional articles from well respected sources that support my concerns.

Hawaii has gone through changes.

Admittedly to assuage the desires of a dominant minority of white American agriculturalist, missionaries and businessmen supported by the American war machine; e.g., U.S. Military feigning national security under banners of manifest destiny. However, ignorance of the law is not justifiable excuse. Injustice in the face of mounting evidence supporting immorality, illegality, international law, one's own actions; coupled with an inability to appropriately respond to both the legal and moral question regarding said actions, are reprehensible to say the least. Consciously, purposely and despicably genocidal at worst.

Now, thanks in large part to Samoa and Vanuatu in the United Nations, Ecocide is on the table. The UN World Water Law is being discussed while we struggle for civilian rule over the protest of military command as Red Hill leaks. In Micronesia radiation, a remnant of a fading world war continues to leak into the ocean, the Pacific with no budgetary resource or congressional responsibility in sight. In light of the last century of historical consequences, the trust between trustee and directed executors of trust responsibility for the Kingdom of Hawaii is gone. A victim of domestic abuse symptomatic with the historical context of these once proud nations. Just one more symptom in the ongoing pandemic that undermines the structural economy of the globe. Ever and always, we rattle our sabers and polish our shields at the surefire strategy for national economic solvency: War. And for those of us in the Pacific, what is brewing along the South China Sea? Nuclear agreements between UK police states coupled with a western pressure cooker of the Ukraine and Russia of old. We have the makings of a global world war. So, playing into the same economic strategy comes a discussion, a conversation of concern regarding science. Hungry pockets willing to feed insatiable academic curiosity and intellectual property rights as ground cover for military expansion fueled by Space forced budgets and National Security repositioning in the face of eminent climate change. A ground based astronomical observation facility all but rendered obsolete by the launching of the James Webb space telescope just last week.

But America today is clamoring from the Right, a predominantly white right, for a Civil War. How would this affect Hawaii, and how did it historically impact Hawaii's economy and Hawaii's supply chain? Whose national security? Whose nation? And with the capacity brought about by global interconnectedness through social media, through the Internet; let's apply the spirit of the Irish immigrant, "Is this a private fight or can anyone join?" U.S. politics: combination show business, economic self interest, talkshow news broadcast. One agreement: Anger, we are angry, divided, inconsolable. The job of governing, impossible. The lines between a democratic "free market" republic and a dicta-totalitarian corporate authoritarianism are being blurred. Economic inequality and perceived victimization at the core of ever dividing spectrums of participants. Distrust permeates all levels of participation in civil and service organizations. Admittedly observed with a level of concern by high ranking military officers(retired, so hopefully less jeopardized by speaking out of the chain of command) speaking out of concern for their oath to serve. An oath condemn-ably ignored by members of Congress.

Quote Business insider December 2021: "Retired US army generals warn of insurrection or civil war in 2024 if rogue military units pledge loyalty to a 'Trumpian' loser." Quote, Washington post, Dec 2021: "As we approach the first anniversary of the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, we — all of us former senior military officials — are increasingly concerned about the aftermath of the 2024 presidential election and the potential for lethal chaos inside our military, which would put all Americans at severe risk."

I suggest this body, tasked by government, by institution not ignore its responsibility to the people, the stewardship, the legacy of preserving our island home. We may not be responsible for the creation of these farcical relationships, however we are responsible for how we act in the moment. Do not fan the flames of conflict for supposed control wrestled from failed policy. Instead take heed of the moment, of our necessary relationships and the families and communities to which we all belong.

Thank you for your service, and for your time.



Reply

Forward

On Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 10:25 AM Center for Maunakea Stewardship <cmshilo@hawaii.edu> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]