

Land Acknowledgement Statement for Hawai'i

Background:

Land acknowledgment is a traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities. Today, land acknowledgments are used by Native peoples and non-Native people to recognize Indigenous peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live and work.

Land Acknowledgement Statement for Hawai'i:

Let us begin by acknowledging that the 'āina (or the land) which we will study is part of the larger territory recognized by Indigenous Hawai'ians as their ancestral grandmother, Papahānaumoku.

We recognize that her majesty, Queen Lili'uokalani, yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom and these territories under duress and protest to the United States to avoid the bloodshed of her people. We further recognize that Hawai'i remains an illegally occupied state of America.

We recognize that each moment we study Hawai'i, she nourishes and gifts us with the opportunity to learn her history and be embraced by her traditions and culture. We further recognize that generations of Indigenous Hawai'ians and their knowledge systems shaped Hawai'i in sustainable ways that allow me to enjoy these gifts today. For this we are grateful and as learners we seek to support the varied strategies that the Indigenous peoples of Hawai'i are using to protect their land and their communities. We commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. Mahalo.