Union Calendar No. 80

107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 617

[Report No. 107-140]

To express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 14, 2001

Mr. Abercrombie (for himself, Mrs. Mink of Hawaii, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Hansen, and Mr. Rahall) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

July 16, 2001

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 14, 2001]

A BILL

To express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United

States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

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- 4 Congress makes the following findings:
- 5 (1) The Constitution vests Congress with the au-6 thority to address the conditions of the indigenous, 7 native people of the United States.
- 8 (2) Native Hawaiians, the native people of the 9 Hawaiian archipelago which is now part of the 10 United States, are indigenous, native people of the 11 United States.
 - (3) The United States has a special trust relationship to promote the welfare of the native people of the United States, including Native Hawaiians.
 - (4) Under the treaty making power of the United States, Congress exercised its constitutional authority to confirm a treaty between the United States and the government that represented the Hawaiian people, and from 1826 until 1893, the United States recognized the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii, extended full diplomatic recognition to the Hawaiian Government, and entered into treaties and conventions with the Hawaiian monarchs to govern com-

- merce and navigation in 1826, 1842, 1849, 1875, and
 1887.
- 3 (5) Pursuant to the provisions of the Hawaiian 4 Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108, chapter 5 42), the United States set aside 203,500 acres of land 6 in the Federal territory that later became the State of 7 Hawaii to address the conditions of Native Hawai-8 ians.
 - (6) By setting aside 203,500 acres of land for Native Hawaiian homesteads and farms, the Act assists the Native Hawaiian community in maintaining distinct native settlements throughout the State of Hawaii.
 - (7) Approximately 6,800 Native Hawaiian lesses and their family members reside on Hawaiian Home Lands and approximately 18,000 Native Hawaiians who are eligible to reside on the Home Lands are on a waiting list to receive assignments of land.
 - (8) In 1959, as part of the compact admitting Hawaii into the United States, Congress established the Ceded Lands Trust for 5 purposes, 1 of which is the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Such trust consists of approximately 1,800,000 acres of land, submerged lands, and the revenues derived

- from such lands, the assets of which have never been
 completely inventoried or segregated.
 - (9) Throughout the years, Native Hawaiians have repeatedly sought access to the Ceded Lands Trust and its resources and revenues in order to establish and maintain native settlements and distinct native communities throughout the State.
 - (10) The Hawaiian Home Lands and the Ceded Lands provide an important foundation for the ability of the Native Hawaiian community to maintain the practice of Native Hawaiian culture, language, and traditions, and for the survival of the Native Hawaiian people.
 - (11) Native Hawaiians have maintained other distinctly native areas in Hawaii.
 - (12) On November 23, 1993, Public Law 103–150 (107 Stat. 1510) (commonly known as the Apology Resolution) was enacted into law, extending an apology on behalf of the United States to the Native people of Hawaii for the United States role in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.
 - (13) The Apology Resolution acknowledges that the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii occurred with the active participation of agents and citizens of the United States and further acknowledges that the

- Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people over their national lands to the United States, either through their monarchy or through a plebiscite or referendum.
 - (14) The Apology Resolution expresses the commitment of Congress and the President to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and Native Hawaiians; and to have Congress and the President, through the President's designated officials, consult with Native Hawaiians on the reconciliation process as called for under the Apology Resolution.
 - (15) Despite the overthrow of the Hawaiian Government, Native Hawaiians have continued to maintain their separate identity as a distinct native community through the formation of cultural, social, and political institutions, and to give expression to their rights as native people to self-determination and self-governance as evidenced through their participation in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
 - (16) Native Hawaiians also give expression to their rights as native people to self-determination and self-governance through the provision of governmental

services to Native Hawaiians, including the provision of health care services, educational programs, employment and training programs, children's services, conservation programs, fish and wildlife protection, agricultural programs, native language immersion programs and native language immersion schools from kindergarten through high school, as well as college and master's degree programs in native language immersion instruction, and traditional justice programs, and by continuing their efforts to enhance Native Hawaiian self-determination and local control.

- (17) Native Hawaiians are actively engaged in Native Hawaiian cultural practices, traditional agricultural methods, fishing and subsistence practices, maintenance of cultural use areas and sacred sites, protection of burial sites, and the exercise of their traditional rights to gather medicinal plants and herbs, and food sources.
- (18) The Native Hawaiian people wish to preserve, develop, and transmit to future Native Hawaiian generations their ancestral lands and Native Hawaiian political and cultural identity in accordance with their traditions, beliefs, customs and practices, language, and social and political institutions, and to

achieve greater self-determination over their own affairs.
 fairs.
 (19) This Act provides for a process within the

(19) This Act provides for a process within the framework of Federal law for the Native Hawaiian people to exercise their inherent rights as a distinct aboriginal, indigenous, native community to reorganize a Native Hawaiian governing entity for the purpose of giving expression to their rights as native people to self-determination and self-governance.

(20) The United States has declared that—

- (A) the United States has a special responsibility for the welfare of the native peoples of the United States, including Native Hawaiians;
- (B) Congress has identified Native Hawaiians as a distinct indigenous group within the scope of its Indian affairs power, and has enacted dozens of statutes on their behalf pursuant to its recognized trust responsibility; and
- (C) Congress has also delegated broad authority to administer a portion of the Federal trust responsibility to the State of Hawaii.
- (21) The United States has recognized and reaffirmed the special trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian people through the enactment of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the admission of the

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1	State of Hawaii into the Union", approved March 18,
2	1959 (Public Law 86–3; 73 Stat. 4) by—
3	(A) ceding to the State of Hawaii title to
4	the public lands formerly held by the United
5	States, and mandating that those lands be held
6	in public trust for 5 purposes, one of which is for
7	the betterment of the conditions of Native Ha-
8	waiians; and
9	(B) transferring the United States responsi-
10	bility for the administration of the Hawaiian
11	Home Lands to the State of Hawaii, but retain-
12	ing the authority to enforce the trust, including
13	the exclusive right of the United States to consent
14	to any actions affecting the lands which com-
15	prise the corpus of the trust and any amend-
16	ments to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act,
17	1920 (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42) that are enacted
18	by the legislature of the State of Hawaii affect-
19	ing the beneficiaries under the Act.
20	(22) The United States continually has recog-
21	nized and reaffirmed that—
22	(A) Native Hawaiians have a cultural, his-
23	toric, and land-based link to the aboriginal, na-
24	tive people who exercised sovereignty over the
25	Hawaiian Islands:

1	(B) Native Hawaiians have never relin-					
2	quished their claims to sovereignty or their sov-					
3	ereign lands;					
4	(C) the United States extends services to					
5	Native Hawaiians because of their unique status					
6	as the aboriginal, native people of a once sov-					
7	ereign nation with whom the United States has					
8	a political and legal relationship; and					
9	(D) the special trust relationship of Amer-					
10	ican Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Ha-					
11	waiians to the United States arises out of their					
12	status as aboriginal, indigenous, native people of					
13	the United States.					
14	SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.					
15	In this Act:					
16	(1) Aboriginal, indigenous, native peo-					
17	PLE.—The term "aboriginal, indigenous, native peo-					
18	ple" means those people whom Congress has recog-					
19	nized as the original inhabitants of the lands and					
20	who exercised sovereignty prior to European contact					
21	in the areas that later became part of the United					
22	States.					
23	(2) APOLOGY RESOLUTION.—The term "Apology					
24	Resolution" means Public Law 103–150 (107 Stat.					
25	1510), a joint resolution extending an apology to Na-					

- tive Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for the
 participation of agents of the United States in the
 January 17, 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.
 - (3) CEDED LANDS.—The term "ceded lands" means those lands which were ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawaii under the Joint Resolution to provide for annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States of July 7, 1898 (30 Stat. 750), and which were later transferred to the State of Hawaii in the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the admission of the State of Hawaii into the Union" approved March 18, 1959 (Public Law 86–3; 73 Stat. 4).
 - (4) Indigenous, Native People.—The term "indigenous, native people" means the lineal descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people of the United States.
 - (5) Interagency coordinating Group" means the term "Interagency Coordinating Group" means the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group established under section 5.

23 (6) Native Hawaiian.—

24 (A) Prior to the recognition by the United 25 States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity,

the term "Native Hawaiian" means the indige-1 2 nous, native people of Hawaii who are the direct lineal descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, 3 4 native people who resided in the islands that now comprise the State of Hawaii on or before 5 6 January 1, 1893, and who occupied and exer-7 cised sovereignty in the Hawaiian archipelago, 8 including the area that now constitutes the State 9 of Hawaii, and includes all Native Hawaiians who were eligible in 1921 for the programs au-10 11 thorized by the Hawaiian Homes Commission 12 Act (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42) and their lineal 13 descendants.

- (B) Following the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, the term "Native Hawaiian" shall have the meaning given to such term in the organic governing documents of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.
- (7) Native Hawaiian governing entity" means the governing entity organized by the Native Hawaiian people.
- (8) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means
 the Secretary of the Interior.

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1 SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY AND PURPOSE.

2	(a) Policy.—The United States reaffirms that—			
3	(1) Native Hawaiians are a unique and distinct,			
4	indigenous, native people, with whom the United			
5	States has a political and legal relationship;			
6	(2) the United States has a special trust rela-			
7	tionship to promote the welfare of Native Hawaiians;			
8	(3) Congress possesses the authority under the			
9	Constitution to enact legislation to address the condi-			
10	tions of Native Hawaiians and has exercised this au-			
11	thority through the enactment of—			
12	(A) the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act,			
13	1920 (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42);			
14	(B) the Act entitled "An Act to provide for			
15	the admission of the State of Hawaii into the			
16	Union", approved March 18, 1959 (Public Law			
17	86-3; 73 Stat. 4); and			
18	(C) more than 150 other Federal laws ad-			
19	dressing the conditions of Native Hawaiians;			
20	(4) Native Hawaiians have—			
21	(A) an inherent right to autonomy in their			
22	internal affairs;			
23	(B) an inherent right of self-determination			
24	and self-governance; and			
25	(C) the right to reorganize a Native Hawai-			
26	ian governing entity; and			

1	(5) the United States shall continue to engage in
2	a process of reconciliation and political relations with
3	the Native Hawaiian people.
4	(b) Purpose.—It is the intent of Congress that the
5	purpose of this Act is to provide a process for the recogni-
6	tion by the United States of a Native Hawaiian governing
7	entity for purposes of continuing a government-to-govern-
8	ment relationship.
9	SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICE
10	FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS.
11	(a) In General.—There is established within the Of-
12	fice of the Secretary the United States Office for Native Ha-
13	waiian Relations.
14	(b) Duties of the Office.—The United States Of-
15	fice for Native Hawaiian Relations shall—
16	(1) effectuate and coordinate the trust relation-
17	ship between the Native Hawaiian people and the
18	United States, and upon the recognition of the Native
19	Hawaiian governing entity by the United States, be-
20	tween the Native Hawaiian governing entity and the
21	United States through the Secretary, and with all
22	other Federal agencies;
23	(2) continue the process of reconciliation with
24	the Native Hawaiian people, and upon the recogni-
25	tion of the Native Hawaiian governing entity by the

- United States, continue the process of reconciliation
 with the Native Hawaiian governing entity;
 - (3) fully integrate the principle and practice of meaningful, regular, and appropriate consultation with the Native Hawaiian governing entity by providing timely notice to, and consulting with the Native Hawaiian people and the Native Hawaiian governing entity prior to taking any actions that may have the potential to significantly affect Native Hawaiian resources, rights, or lands;
 - (4) consult with the Interagency Coordinating Group, other Federal agencies, and with relevant agencies of the State of Hawaii on policies, practices, and proposed actions affecting Native Hawaiian resources, rights, or lands; and
 - (5) prepare and submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives an annual report detailing the activities of the Interagency Coordinating Group that are undertaken with respect to the continuing process of reconciliation and to effect meaningful consultation with the Native Hawaiian governing entity and providing recommendations for any necessary changes to existing Federal statutes or

1	regulations promulgated under the authority of Fed-
2	eral law.
3	SEC. 5. NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTERAGENCY COORDINATING
4	GROUP.
5	(a) Establishment.—In recognition of the fact that
6	Federal programs authorized to address the conditions of
7	Native Hawaiians are largely administered by Federal
8	agencies other than the Department of the Interior, there
9	is established an interagency coordinating group to be
10	known as the "Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating
11	Group".
12	(b) Composition.—The Interagency Coordinating
13	Group shall be composed of officials, to be designated by
14	the President, from—
15	(1) each Federal agency that administers Native
16	Hawaiian programs, establishes or implements poli-
17	cies that affect Native Hawaiians, or whose actions
18	may significantly or uniquely impact on Native Ha-
19	waiian resources, rights, or lands; and
20	(2) the United States Office for Native Hawaiian
21	Relations established under section 4.
22	(c) Lead Agency.—The Department of the Interior
23	shall serve as the lead agency of the Interagency Coordi-
24	nating Group, and meetings of the Interagency Coordi-
25	natina Group shall be convened by the lead agency.

1	(d) Duties.—The responsibilities of the Interagency					
2	Coordinating Group shall be—					
3	(1) the coordination of Federal programs and					
4	policies that affect Native Hawaiians or actions by					
5	any agency or agencies of the Federal Government					
6	which may significantly or uniquely impact on Na-					
7	tive Hawaiian resources, rights, or lands;					
8	(2) to assure that each Federal agency develops					
9	a policy on consultation with the Native Hawaiian					
10	people, and upon recognition of the Native Hawaiian					
11	governing entity by the United States, consultation					
12	with the Native Hawaiian governing entity; and					
13	(3) to assure the participation of each Federal					
14	agency in the development of the report to Congress					
15	authorized in section $4(b)(5)$.					
16	SEC. 6. PROCESS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE NATIVE					
17	HAWAIIAN GOVERNING ENTITY.					
18	(a) Recognition of the Native Hawaiian Gov-					
19	Erning Entity.—The right of the Native Hawaiian people					
20	to organize for their common welfare and to adopt appro-					
21	priate organic governing documents is hereby recognized by					
22	the United States.					
23	(b) Process for Recognition.—					
24	(1) Submittal of organic governing docu-					
25	Ments.—Following the organization of the Native					

1	Hawaiian governing entity, the adoption of organic				
2	governing documents, and the election of officers of				
3	the Native Hawaiian governing entity, the duly elect-				
4	ed officers of the Native Hawaiian governing entity				
5	shall submit the organic governing documents of the				
6	Native Hawaiian governing entity to the Secretary.				
7	(2) Certifications.—				
8	(A) In General.—Within 90 days of the				
9	date that the duly elected officers of the Native				
10	Hawaiian governing entity submit the organic				
11	governing documents to the Secretary, the Sec-				
12	retary shall certify that the organic governing				
13	documents—				
14	(i) establish the criteria for citizenship				
15	in the Native Hawaiian governing entity;				
16	(ii) were adopted by a majority vote of				
17	the citizens of the Native Hawaiian gov-				
18	erning entity;				
19	(iii) provide for the exercise of govern-				
20	mental authorities by the Native Hawaiian				
21	$governing\ entity;$				
22	(iv) provide for the Native Hawaiian				
23	governing entity to negotiate with Federal,				
24	State, and local governments, and other en-				
25	tities;				

1	(v) prevent the sale, disposition, lease,
2	or encumbrance of lands, interests in lands,
3	or other assets of the Native Hawaiian gov-
4	erning entity without the consent of the Na-
5	$tive \ Hawaii an \ governing \ entity;$
6	(vi) provide for the protection of the
7	civil rights of the citizens of the Native Ha-
8	waiian governing entity and all persons
9	subject to the authority of the Native Ha-
10	waiian governing entity, and ensure that
11	the Native Hawaiian governing entity exer-
12	cises its authority consistent with the re-
13	quirements of section 202 of the Act of April
14	11, 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1302); and
15	(vii) are consistent with applicable
16	Federal law and the special trust relation-
17	ship between the United States and the in-
18	digenous native people of the United States.
19	(B) By the secretary.—Within 90 days
20	of the date that the duly elected officers of the
21	Native Hawaiian governing entity submit the
22	organic governing documents to the Secretary,
23	the Secretary shall certify that the State of Ha-
24	waii supports the recognition of the Native Ha-
25	waiian governing entity by the United States as

1	evidenced by a resolution or act of the Hawaii
2	State legislature.
3	(C) Resubmission in case of noncompli-
4	ANCE.—
5	(i) Resubmission by the sec-
6	RETARY.—If the Secretary determines that
7	the organic governing documents do not ad-
8	dress the criteria described in subparagraph
9	(A) or that the organic governing docu-
10	ments, or any part thereof, are not con-
11	sistent with other applicable Federal law,
12	the Secretary shall resubmit the organic
13	governing documents to the duly elected offi-
14	cers of the Native Hawaiian governing enti-
15	ty along with a justification for each of the
16	Secretary's findings as to why the provi-
17	sions are not consistent with such law.
18	(ii) Amendment and resubmission
19	BY THE NATIVE HAWAHAN GOVERNING ENTI-
20	TY.—If the organic governing documents
21	are resubmitted to the duly elected officers
22	of the Native Hawaiian governing entity by
23	the Secretary under clause (i), the duly
24	elected officers of the Native Hawaiian gov-
25	erning entity shall—

1	(I) amend the organic governing
2	documents to ensure that the docu-
3	ments comply with applicable Federal
4	law and address the criteria described
5	in subparagraph (A); and
6	(II) resubmit the amended organic
7	governing documents to the Secretary
8	for certification in accordance with the
9	requirements of this paragraph.
10	(D) CERTIFICATIONS DEEMED MADE.—The
11	certifications authorized in subparagraph (A)
12	shall be deemed to have been made if the Sec-
13	retary has not acted within 90 days of the date
14	that the duly elected officers of the Native Ha-
15	waiian governing entity have submitted the or-
16	ganic governing documents of the Native Hawai-
17	ian governing entity to the Secretary.
18	(3) FEDERAL RECOGNITION.—Notwithstanding
19	any other provision of law, upon the election of the
20	officers of the Native Hawaiian governing entity and
21	the certifications by the Secretary required under
22	paragraph (2), the United States hereby extends Fed-
23	eral recognition to the Native Hawaiian governing
24	entity as the representative governing body of the Na-

tive Hawaiian people.

1 SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 2 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
- 3 may be necessary to carry out the activities authorized in
- 4 this Act.
- 5 SEC. 8. REAFFIRMATION OF DELEGATION OF FEDERAL
- 6 **AUTHORITY**; **NEGOTIATIONS**.
- 7 (a) Reaffirmation.—The delegation by the United
- 8 States of authority to the State of Hawaii to address the
- 9 conditions of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii con-
- 10 tained in the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the admis-
- 11 sion of the State of Hawaii into the Union" approved
- 12 March 18, 1959 (Public Law 86-3; 73 Stat. 5) is hereby
- 13 reaffirmed.
- 14 (b) Negotiations.—Upon the Federal recognition of
- 15 the Native Hawaiian governing entity by the United States,
- 16 the United States is authorized to negotiate and enter into
- 17 an agreement with the State of Hawaii and the Native Ha-
- 18 waiian governing entity regarding the transfer of lands, re-
- 19 sources, and assets dedicated to Native Hawaiian use to the
- 20 Native Hawaiian governing entity. Nothing in this Act is
- 21 intended to serve as a settlement of any claims against the
- 22 United States.
- 23 SEC. 9. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAWS.
- 24 (a) Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.—Nothing con-
- 25 tained in this Act shall be construed as an authorization
- 26 for the Native Hawaiian governing entity to conduct gam-

- 1 ing activities under the authority of the Indian Gaming
- 2 Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).
- 3 (b) Bureau of Indian Affairs.—Nothing contained
- 4 in this Act shall be construed as an authorization for eligi-
- 5 bility to participate in any programs and services provided
- 6 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for any persons not other-
- 7 wise eligible for such programs or services.
- 8 SEC. 10. SEVERABILITY.
- 9 In the event that any section or provision of this Act
- 10 is held invalid, it is the intent of Congress that the remain-
- 11 ing sections or provisions of this Act shall continue in full
- 12 force and effect.

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H.R.617

[Report No. 107-140]

A BILL

To express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes.

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Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed