



abercrombie[®]
for governor

Native Hawaiian Issues

Neil's deep and abiding respect for Native Hawaiian culture and people is backed by action. As Hawaii's representative in Congress, Neil championed Hawaiian causes in healthcare, education, housing, the environment, and self-determination. While Neil will be a Governor of all Hawaii's people, he recognizes a special relationship to Native Hawaiians that is part of our public conscience, enshrined in our laws, and entrusted to our leaders.

Accomplishments

- As a state legislator and as special assistant to the Superintendent of Education, Neil supported Native Hawaiians and was a key sponsor of the program that put **kupuna in the public schools** to help perpetuate Hawaiian culture.
- On many occasions, programs benefitting Native Hawaiians have been attacked on the House Floor and targeted for elimination. Neil successfully defended **federal funding for Native Hawaiian education, healthcare, housing, and culture and arts**. Most recently, his leadership helped ensure that the Native Hawaiian Healthcare Act was part of the healthcare reform law signed by President Obama earlier this year.
- Worked with Senator Daniel K. Akaka on passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (also known as the **Akaka Bill**) since it was first introduced in 2000. Neil successfully won the votes and passed the legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000, 2007 and 2009.
- Introduced and secured House passage of the most comprehensive federal authorization for infrastructure and housing funding for homestead land in Hawaii, the **Hawaiian Homelands Homeownership Act** of 2000. Helped capture enough votes needed to ensure reauthorization of the Act in 2007 after House Republicans attempted to kill the program. The bill allowed for the continuation of housing block grants and loan guarantees for homes purchased in designated Hawaiian Homelands.
- Opposed the Army's plan to continue live fire military exercises on Makua Military Reservation. Pushed for the return of **Makua Valley** as a gesture of "good will and faith by the Army" since the land was never intended to be used permanently as a training site.
- Championed the cause in the House of Representatives and secured \$400 million with Rep. Patsy Mink for a major cleanup of **Kahoolawe**. Ensured the public release of detailed information from the Pentagon regarding the hazardous weapons dumped at sea after World War II and funding for studies to locate underwater munitions and to conduct a demonstration of munitions removal on the Waianae Coast.
- Co-sponsored and secured committee passage of the **Kalaupapa Memorial Act** to authorize Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish a memorial to honor those who were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa. This legislation was ultimately included in the Omnibus Lands package of 2009.

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The Abercrombie Plan

1. **Leveraging relationships with the federal government.** Neil will use his experience and relationships with the White House and Congress to advance the interests of Native Hawaiians, work to obtain continued federal funding, and build broader federal support for Native Hawaiian programs.
2. **Support for Hawaiian self-determination.** Neil was the prime mover of the Akaka bill in the House of Representatives and the opportunity it creates for Hawaiians to form their own governing structure in pursuit of economic and community development opportunities. Neil will be a proactive Governor who will consult broadly with all sides, build on the many strengths in the Hawaiian community, and resolve historic controversies with regard to ceded lands, Hawaiian Home Lands, water rights, gathering rights, and other issues.
3. **Support for CIP on Hawaiian Home Lands.** Capital Improvement Project funding on Hawaiian Home Lands will be part of an overall state plan for CIP that best benefits the people of Hawaii. Until a future Native Hawaiian entity assumes the trust responsibility associated with these lands, the state must continue to meet the mandate of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, to return Native Hawaiians to the land.
4. **Advancing Native Hawaiian education.** Neil has put forward bold plans for improving public education in Hawaii and boosting early childhood education and services. The state will work as an active partner with Kamehameha Schools and other Hawaiian organizations to advance preschool education, lift public schools, fairly fund and promote the success of Hawaiian charter schools, promote Native Hawaiian enrollment and success in higher education, and build capacity in Hawaiian communities.
5. **Improving Native Hawaiian health and healthcare.** Neil will continue his long-time support of Community Health Centers and Native Hawaiian Health organizations such as Papa Ola Lokahi. Neil's overall health policy will focus on access to culturally appropriate care, addressing substance abuse problems that are devastating the Hawaiian community, health education, preventative medicine, addressing social determinants of health such as poverty, and attacking the root causes of chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma, which are disproportionately affecting Hawaiians.
6. **Settling claims for revenue earned on ceded lands.** As a state legislator, Neil worked on the creation of OHA and he has always believed that Hawaiians should control their own destiny, including managing their own resources. The dispute over ceded lands revenues must be settled once and for all by all parties coming together in a spirit of resolution.
7. **Resolving the issue of alienation of ceded lands.** The State has not honored agreements in the past, nor has it fulfilled its trust obligations to its native people. This broken trust has left many Hawaiians calling for a moratorium on the sale of ceded lands. Neil will engage the Hawaiian community to forge a way forward that fulfills legal obligations and abides by a sincere desire to rebuild trust.
8. **Advancing and supporting Native Hawaiian leadership.** Neil embraces the diversity of people in Hawaii. He understands and supports the unique importance of leadership development among Native Hawaiians in the public and private sectors. Neil will make sure Native Hawaiians have significant representation in an Abercrombie Administration.