



# **NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION**

Rebuilding Communities Through Indian Self-Reliance

## **NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION #1-PHX-EC-4-16-09**

**TITLE: To support the Akaka bill to provide Native Hawaiians an opportunity to reorganize the Native Hawaiian government as a Native Nation**

**WHEREAS**, the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) is an intertribal association of 184 federally recognized Indian Tribes established to support Indian gaming and defend Indian sovereignty; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian Tribes are governments that pre-date the United States and, through the Indian Commerce Clause and the Treaty Clause, the Constitution of the United States recognizes the status of Indian Tribes as sovereigns; and

**WHEREAS**, in treaties, the United States acknowledged Indian tribes as sovereigns, pledged to protect Indian Tribes and guaranteed the right of Tribal self-government; and

**WHEREAS**, The Native Hawaii nation is the original sovereign of Hawaii; and

**WHEREAS**, The United States has recognized Native Hawaiians as a native people, with a right to their traditional lands in the Hawaii Homeland Act, the State Enabling Act and the Apology Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has apologized to the Native Hawaiian people for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indian Reorganization Act was never extended to Native Hawaiians and the Akaka bill extends to Native Hawaii and an opportunity to reorganize the native government for the Native Hawaiian people.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, National Indian Gaming Association and our Member Tribes support the Akaka bill, S. 708 to provide Native Hawaiians an opportunity to reorganize their Native Hawaiian government as a native nation.