USET Resolution No. 2009:039

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, federal policy affords all American Indians and Alaska natives the right to be self-governing within a defined land base; and

WHEREAS, there has been more than a century of injustice denying Native Hawaiians self-governance by the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Congress passed the Apology Resolution Act of November 23, 1993 (Public Law 103-105, 103rd Congress, 107 STAT. 1510), acknowledging its role in the illegal overthrow of the indigenous Hawaiian people in 1893 and calling for reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the Apology Resolution further stated "...the indigenous 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" and

WHEREAS, the regulatory process for Federal Recognition that is administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is available only to Indian Tribes within the 48 contiguous states; and

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009 would establish a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the sovereign rights of indigenous Hawaiian people and recognizes the need for the United States to develop a true government-to-government relationship with a Native Hawaiian government; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the passage of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009 and the reaffirmation of the right of indigenous Hawaiian people to self-governance.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at a Special Called USET meeting, held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"