



**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, 103<sup>rd</sup> 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"*