



If you could choose anything, what would you wear to graduation?

"A cheese cloth."



MARINA TAYLOR
political science, sophomore

"Nothing."



KIERCE HARE
political science, sophomore

"A traditional costume so I can show my identity."



ALI KEYHANFARD
PPPM, graduate

"A Madonna breast set."



JASON HEUNG
economics, senior

"A typical West African outfit."



MAAJO COOPER-HENRY
geography, freshman

"A toga since I have never worn one before."



MIKEILLE VILLARQUI
undeclared, freshman

Compiled by Susanne Steffens/Photos by Wilson Chan

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Lecturer addresses issue of sovereignty in Hawaiian Islands

By Pat Daly

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Before the turn of the next century, native born Hawaiians could have sovereignty over their own nation, leaving the United States with one less star on its flag. America's tropical playground, it is alleged, was stolen, and the Hawaiian people want it back.

Healani Waiwaiole spoke last Thursday at a Sovereignty Workshop as one of the featured events of Asian-American Month, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Student Union. Waiwaiole is head of the Portland chapter of Ka Lahui, a grassroots native initiative based on a democratic constitution created by Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians in 1987 held a Constitutional Convention which drafted a constitution declaring sovereignty and self-determination. Ka Lahui is trying to be recognized as a nation within the United States, much the same way other Native American tribes are.

Waiwaiole's group is among seven stateside Caucuses consisting of Hawaiian descendants and natives who concentrate on educating citizens and Congress about the Ka Lahui Hawaii sovereignty movement. Among the issues Waiwaiole and Ka Lahui are also confronting are those of land trusts, broken government promises and international recognition as a nation.

"Hawaiian people want control of their own land and through that process it is hoped that we can get (Hawaii) a bit healthier," said Waiwaiole. "Military activity, tourism, golf courses- all these things are polluting the archipelago."

While there is a growing sovereignty movement in Hawaii, Ka Lahui takes a strong self-rule stance on the issue. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs attempted last year to move the sovereignty issue forward. It created the Hawaiian Sovereignty Advisory Commission, whose task it is to advise the state legislature on a sovereignty referendum and convention.

Ka Lahui refused to participate in that dialogue on the grounds that the HSAC is a state agency and the appointed members of the commission were appointed by the Governor.

Waiwaiole compared the situation to that of a labor/management negotiation. "You can't have management appointing union voices," she said. "And besides that, they (the state) simply don't seem to do a good job with anything they have any control over."

Besides Ka Lahui Hawaii, Waiwaiole said there are groups whose emphasis on the sovereignty issue is one of total self-control of the Islands, complete with the idea of having the non-Hawaiians kicked out of their nation.

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