Aloha mai kākou. On behalf of Kamehameha Schools, I am pleased to submit comments in response to the U.S. Department of the Interior’s solicitation of comments and testimony during its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) period in Hawai‘i, June 23 through July 8, 2014. During this time, the Department provided for a series of public meetings and consultations to solicit comments that could help determine whether the Department should develop a formal, administrative procedure for reestablishing an official government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community and if so, what that procedure should be.

Kamehameha Schools (KS) is a private charitable educational trust endowed by the will of Hawaiian princess, Bernice Pauahi Bishop (1831-1884), the great-granddaughter and last direct descendant of King Kamehameha I. Our mission is to fulfill Pauahi's desire to create educational opportunities in perpetuity to improve the capability and well-being of people of Hawaiian ancestry.

The work of Kamehameha Schools and our fellow Hawaiian-serving organizations is critical to helping advance the well-being of Hawaiians in their homeland. So, as the Native Hawaiian community gathers to assert its right to chart its own political course forward, Kamehameha Schools offers these comments to the Department:

First, Kamehameha Schools will continue to uphold our kuleana (responsibility and right) to educate Native Hawaiians under any form of self-governance.

Second, Kamehameha Schools supports the right of Native Hawaiians to determine their own future and govern themselves. We believe it is important for Native Hawaiians to be fully informed of their choices for self-governance and to select a path or paths that will best advance Native Hawaiian well-being.

Third, we acknowledge the importance of advancing the Department's Proposed Rulemaking to keep open one of many paths which Native Hawaiians may later choose. This path could also provide an opportunity to better improve Native Hawaiian well-being. Kamehameha Schools' acknowledgment of the Department's Proposed Rulemaking does not imply or confirm our support or advocacy for or against any one particular form of self-governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our comments on this important matter.

Submitted by:

Trustee Lance Wilhelm, Chair
Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees

Date: 8/14/14