

*“Taro is our  
Ancestor that  
Nourishes  
Us” Pacific  
Region  
Indigenous  
Peoples Food*



**Sovereignty Conference, September 7 - 8, 2016 and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
International Indian Treaty Council Conference, September 9 – 11, 2016  
Pu’uhonua Village, Nation of Hawaii  
Waimanalo Oahu Hawaii**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS**

Welcome to the *“Taro is our Ancestor that Nourishes Us”* and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conferences. Both events are hosted by the Independent and Sovereign Nation State of Hawaii, aka the Nation of Hawai’i. We want these gatherings to be enjoyable, comfortable and peaceful for everyone, and we offer the following information which we hope will be helpful.

#### **1. Weather Report**

June is the start of Hurricane Season in Hawaii. By September the temperature should be between 60 – 90 degrees. Pu’uhonua Village is located on the windward/ east side of Oahu. It is always windy on the windward side, and this time of the year it usually rains once a day. We are up against the Ko’olau mountains, so the mountains got our back. You may want to bring light raincoats, and jackets. For in-depth information on the weather, see: [bumpykanahele.com](http://bumpykanahele.com) or check the internet for updated information before you travel.

#### **2. This is the Nation’s Administrative Office**

Internet, cell phone service, electrical power service and outlets are available on site. Power strips, cords and cables will be available. There will not be public access to printing on site so if you have materials you want to distribute, bring them with you. We hope to keep paper use to a minimum.

#### **3. First Aid on Site**

The Nation will provide First Aid on site. If you have a more serious medical problem, Castle Hospital is located about 4 miles down the road, 640 Ulukahiki, St., Kailua, HI. 96734. It is open 24 hours for emergency services. If you don’t have medical insurance that works in Hawaii you might want to consider purchasing travel insurance, as the Nation and IITC can’t assume responsibility for any hospital or medical care, or for early transportation home due to illness.

#### **4. Airlines Arrivals and Departures**

Please provide the IITC office in San Francisco, +(415) 641-4482 or [iitc@treatycouncil.org](mailto:iitc@treatycouncil.org), with your flight information if you are booking your own travel. IITC staff will provide the Hawaii/IITC Conference Committee with a schedule for airport pickups for participants. Let us know if you need to be picked up, are renting a car or have otherwise arranged your own transportation. Please let us know if your flight schedule is changed or cancelled so we have accurate information for better service (and can avoid searching for you needlessly at the airport).

## **5. Ground Transportation**

Ground transportation will be provided for Conference participants arriving and departing from Honolulu International Airport, about 45 minutes away from the Conference site in Waimanalo.

- A map to the Conference site is available on the IITC web site or can be provided upon request if you plan to have your own transportation from the airport.
- Limited transportation will be available for local store runs. Directions will be provided to grocery stores, ATM's etc. in the area for those who have cars or can provide rides to others.
- Besides airport pick-ups and drop offs, no transportation will be provided to Honolulu by the Conference. If you are staying in or near Honolulu (the other side of the island) please arrange for your own transportation, taxi, rental car etc. to the Conference site.

## **6. Accommodations at the Village**

There will be a limited number of beds, sleeping cots and folding mattresses available for the elders, handicapped and women at the site. (Make sure to call/email in advance to reserve one). We have a huge comfortable sleeping area for everyone else. There will be designated areas for camping, and campfires will be allowed in these areas only.

- Bring your own towels, sleeping bags/bedding and toiletries, as these items will not be provided on site. You are welcome to bring your own tents (you are responsible to keep track of your own camping gear).
- Restrooms, Shower facilities and drinking water will be available on site (the water is very clean here)
- Anyone wishing to camp out before and/or after the Conferences will need to provide for their own food and be self-sufficient for travel including to and from the airport. Please contact the Conference Coordinator to ask if camping will be available at the Village for extra days either before or after the Conferences.

## **7. Food/Meals**

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee/tea and snacks will be served at the Village Kitchen area free of charge (donations to support these costs are always welcomed!). Meals will be provided (for the Taro Conference participants) beginning with Dinner on September 6th through Lunch on September 12<sup>th</sup> (closing of the Treaty Conference).

We will do our best to provide a variety of food choices at each meal (i.e. some vegetarian and

gluten-free foods). Those who have special dietary needs are advised to bring supplemental and back-up food and snacks.

## **8. Bed and Breakfast Rentals near the Conference Location**

For those who don't want to camp, Bed & Breakfast accommodations near the site can be arranged at your own expense through: Vacation Rental By Owners / VRBO <https://www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/hawaii>. Many great and affordable places are available, from studios to 7 bedroom houses. There are locations on Waikupanaha St., Waimanalo, on the same street just minutes away from the Conference location. 4 people can chip in and get a good place to stay, if this is your choice. There are no motels or hotels in Waimanalo.

## **9. Hotel Accommodations**

We have arranged for a block of rooms at the Pagoda Hotel in Downtown Honolulu, 60 minutes away from the conference site. Hotel Block Room Dates: September 6-11, 2016. Submit reservation forms no later than August 7, 2016, and mention Gina Maikai, Coordinator, IITC conference. Address: 1525 Rycroft St., Honolulu, HI. 96814; Phone: + (808) 941- 6611; web page: [www.pagodahotel.com](http://www.pagodahotel.com).

## **10. Cultural Protocol**

There will be Opening Day Sunrise Ceremonies on Wednesday September 7, 2016 (for the Taro Conference) and Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> (for the Treaty Conference) at Kaiona Beach Park.

Hi'uwai is a ceremonial cleansing and preparation protocol for the work ahead of us. Pule Eho Mai – focus, guidance from above, Pule Huikala / Hemu Oia – purification ceremony, Pule E ala E – a prayer before the sun rises. When the sun finally peaks above the ocean's horizon, then we all dive in the ocean for Hi'uwai, our ceremonial cleansing and blessings in the ocean as the sun rises.

Culturally, men and women are nude doing this process. Today the ceremony is usually done with women using a pareo and the men a piece of loin cloth, swim shorts or pareo worn as a lavalava. Vans will leave the conference site for the Beach at 5:00 AM on both ceremony days.

## **11. Ceremonial Areas and Respectful Conduct**

There will be a sacred fire and sweats for men and women on site. There are strict protocols that apply to these areas and activities. We ask for respect of the rules that apply to them. Please listen to the assigned caretakers of these areas and follow their instructions carefully. There are also protocols that apply specifically to women, and if you do not know these, please ask a female staff person.

The presence of the sacred fire, ancestral repatriation areas, spiritual and cultural leaders, elders, Indigenous representatives from many Nations and our community families require that all interactions among participants be respectful and carried out "in a good way". You will be reminded and then asked to leave by Security if your behavior is disruptive.

## **12. Media and Recordings**

Separate registration forms and badges will be required for all media and anyone wanting to film, do interviews, take photos or do news stories. A designated Media Coordinator will help you to set up interviews at appropriate times. Recordings (video or audio) of plenary and small group sessions will require permission of the Coordinators. Some parts of the program should not be filmed or recorded, and this will be announced. There are no photos allowed of sacred areas or activities. Please ask for permission from the Conference organizers and the individual(s) in question before you take photos of anyone and ask parents before you photograph our children.

### **13. Simultaneous translation will be provided for both Conference in English and Spanish**

### **14. Arts & Crafts Fair**

An area will be set up to sell or display your arts, crafts, t-shirts, and other Indigenous-made merchandise. Scheduled times will be set for sales. Participants are invited to bring items to share, trade or sell. Commercial vendors and food sales will not be permitted.

### **15. All Alcohol and Drugs are prohibited during the Conferences. Please do not bring dogs (except required service animals). Designated areas for cigarette-smoking will be provided.**

Please remember that this is our Nation and our home. We have over 55 acres of land and we would really appreciate your Kokua (help), in keeping our land Malama 'Aina (clean & cared for). ***Important:*** If you get attracted to and want to pick up rocks, plants or flowers, please check with Security or Conference staff first. Some things should not be removed from the site or the island, and some things are OK to take with the correct protocols. We are happy to provide information and assistance on this, so please ask first. Best not to bother the animals, birds and insects that share our land, this is their home too. For more information about Pu'uohonua ("place of refuge") Village and the Nation of Hawaii log on to [www.hawaii-nation.org/puuhonua.html](http://www.hawaii-nation.org/puuhonua.html).

Thanks for your Kokua, and please let us know if you have any questions or problems.

*The Nation of Hawaii and the International Indian Treaty Council are not responsible for lost or stolen items, damage to vehicles or other property, or injury to people. Please be careful and follow instructions about being on the land and in the water, and please watch your children and keep them close. We want everyone to have a safe, positive experience!*

For more information or questions contact: Nation of Hawaii Conference Coordinator Gina Makai, [nnoheam@gmail.com](mailto:nnoheam@gmail.com), (808) 499-7765  
IITC San Francisco Office: [iitc@treatycouncil.org](mailto:iitc@treatycouncil.org), (415) 641-4482  
Para informacion en español: Nicole Yanes, [nicole@treatycouncil.org](mailto:nicole@treatycouncil.org), (520) 313-7877

For additional information log on to [www.iitc.org](http://www.iitc.org)