



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 27 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior (Department) would like to consult with Indian tribes on a recently issued Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM). The ANPRM seeks comments on the Department's potential role in developing an administrative process to facilitate the reestablishment of a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community ([ANPRM available here](#)).

In the past, the United States has not partnered with Native Hawaiians on a government-to-government basis, in part because there has been no formal, organized Native Hawaiian government since 1893. However, Congress has enacted over 150 statutes recognizing and implementing a special political and trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian community.

The ANPRM asks five threshold questions that will be the areas of discussion for the regional consultations:

- Should the Secretary propose a rule that would facilitate reestablishment of a government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community?
- Should the Secretary assist the Native Hawaiian community in reorganizing its government, with which the United States could reestablish a government-to-government relationship?
- If so, what process should be established for drafting and ratifying a reorganized Native Hawaiian government's constitution or other governing document?
- Should the Secretary instead rely on the reorganization of the Native Hawaiian government through a process established by the Native Hawaiian community and facilitated by the State of Hawaii, to the extent such a process is consistent with Federal law?
- If so, what conditions should the Secretary establish as prerequisites to Federal acknowledgment of a government-to-government relationship with the reorganized Native Hawaiian government?

Meaningful tribal consultation and collaboration are an important part of this Administration's commitment to informed decisionmaking and to honoring the United States' trust relationship with tribal nations. For this reason, the Department will host five regional consultations with tribes to gather input regarding the ANPRM.

The Department is interested in seeking comment on the Secretary's role in developing an administrative process to facilitate reestablishing government-to-government relationship with the Native Hawaiian community, as well as any related comments from tribal leaders.

The locations and dates for these consultations are:

Tuesday, July 29, 2014 - Minnesota – 9:00 AM - Noon

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake, MN

Wednesday, July 30, 2014 – South Dakota – 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Rushmore Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

Friday, August 1 – Washington – 9:00 AM - Noon

Tulalip Resort, Seattle, WA

Tuesday, August 5 – Arizona – 9:00 AM - Noon

Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale, AZ

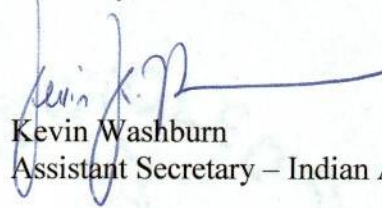
Thursday, August 7 – Connecticut – 9:00 AM - Noon

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

My office will also provide the exact location, date, and time on the Department's website at www.bia.gov/consultation.

Thank you for your leadership. My office has an open-door policy and I enjoy meeting with tribal leadership whenever possible. Please visit www.bia.gov/ContactUs in order to request a meeting. Should you have further questions, please contact my office at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Washburn", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs