

DECLARATION OF KINSHIP

We, the extended family of the Sealaska Corporation of Juneau, Alaska, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society of Honolulu, Hawai'i, stand on the foundation laid before us by our elders and ancestors. As indigenous cultures, we have come together to affirm our connections and shared responsibility in caring for our world. Whereas:

- In 1989, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program, based at the Bishop Museum, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society Hawaiian navigator Nainoa Thompson was unable to locate suitable koa trees to create a traditional Hawaiian voyaging canoe because Hawai'i forests were in decline.
- In 1990, revered Tlingit elder and then-Sealaska Board Chair, the late Judson Brown, and then-CEO of Sealaska, Byron Mallott, gifted two Sitka spruce from the Haida Homelands with the belief that the Alaska and Hawai'i communities would forge a special bond and their descendants would be enriched and inspired, and carry their cultural legacies forward.
- Later in 1990, Hawaiian and Alaska Native elders and leaders planted seedlings in the koa forests of Keauhou, Ka'ū, Hawai'i; Kamehameha Schools' koa reforestation efforts evolved into a robust program of stewardship. Nearly 30 years later on May 27, 2019, Hawaiian and Alaska Native leaders would return to the same forests to honor the past and plant more seedlings for the future.
- In 1995, the *Hawai'iloa* canoe was launched and sailed throughout the South Pacific including Ra'iātea, Tahiti and Nukuhiva. It then embarked on a historical voyage to Alaska to honor the land from which its hulls originated and the people whose gift continues to impact generations of Hawai'i's people.
- Representing the enduring relationship of the native peoples of Alaska and Hawai'i, a pair of Tlingit house posts was carved by Nathan Jackson in 1997 following Judson Brown's passing. One of the posts is on display at the Bishop Museum, a gift from Sealaska Corporation.
- From May 28-30, 2019, some 200 members of the Hawai'i and Alaska communities convened at the Ho'oilina: Empowering our Traditions of Exploration Conference sponsored by 'Aha Moananuiākea (a Pacific consortium of Kamehameha Schools, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Bishop Museum and the University of Hawai'i System) and the Alaska-Hawai'i Alliance. Special features of the gathering were the ceremonial welcome of a Yakutat Tlingit canoe, and the strengthening of relationships in preparation for the Moananuiākea Trans-Pacific Voyage, which is envisioned to launch from Alaska in 2021.

Therefore, it is with great honor and pride that the institutional leaders listed below affix their signatures to this Declaration of Kinship to honor the history and close relationships of the Sealaska Corporation and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and to commit to working together as a Pacific extended family to advance the condition of our peoples, ensure the vitality of our cultures and languages, restore and protect our sacred lands and waters, and work towards a sustainable Island Earth for generations to come.

Signed at Kapālama, O'ahu, Hawai'i, at the Marine Education Training Center, on May 30th, 2019 for the Ho'oilina: Empowering our Traditions of Exploration, Alaska-Hawai'i Conference.

Byron Mallott
Former CEO and Chairman, Sealaska

Nainoa Thompson
President, Polynesian Voyaging Society

Rosita Worl
Director Emeritus, Sealaska

Livingston "Jack" Wong
CEO, Kamehameha Schools

Anthony Mallott
CEO, Sealaska

Melanie Ide
President and CEO, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Joe Nelson
Chair, Sealaska

David Lassner
President, University of Hawai'i

Jodi Mitchell
Vice Chair, Sealaska

Randie Kamuela Fong
'Aha Moananuiākea

Albert Kookesh
Director, Sealaska

Barbara Cadiante-Nelson
Director, Sealaska

Morgan Howard
Director, Sealaska



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