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Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Regulation Identifier Number 1090-AB05

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Aloha. My name is Sandra Puanani Burgess. I was born and raised in Honolulu and have lived here my entire life. I am married and have 1 child, 4 stepchildren and between my husband and I we have 7 grandchildren and 1 great grand child.

I am Hawaiian, Filipina and Chinese. Even though I am part Hawaiian I oppose any federal rule change or executive order that would give Hawaiians the right to form a separate sovereign nation with special rights, power, land and privileges not given to other citizens who live in our beautiful state. Those rights, power, land and wealth would be distributed to those whose only requirement would be to have just one

drop of Hawaiian blood, and many of them were not even born and raised here in Hawaii.

That is not only un-American. It is un-Hawaiian! The first Constitution of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1840 began with these words: God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the earth, in unity. Hawaii has a long tradition of inclusiveness, giving full citizenship and full political rights to all inhabitants no matter where they came from.

The majority of the people living in Hawaii today would not be eligible only because they do not have the required Hawaiian blood, yet many have ancestors who were citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom before it became a Territory and then the 50th State.

I have Chinese and Filipino cousins, aunts and uncles. We have common ancestors who were here before 1893. Why should I be given special rights and privileges just because, by accident of birth, I happen to have Hawaiian blood and they do not?

Another important reason I oppose creation of a separate tribe or nation for Hawaiians is that I think it

would divide and create havoc where once we all lived together in relative harmony in one of the most integrated places on earth.

When the government gives special treatment to one group based on their race or ancestry, it creates rivalries that harm political stability. That group will only seek more wealth and power for themselves instead of what is best for our entire State and all its citizens. Our country has fought a civil war and so many Americans gave their lives in order to end discrimination. Isn't it going backwards if our government now implements the practice of discriminating between citizens based on their race?

Just look at what that kind of divisiveness is doing in Iraq. Iraq cannot unite because they don't see themselves as Iraqi first. The population is divided into Sunni, Kurd or Shiite. Their violent struggle because they are not united as one people is a tragedy. Why does the United States government continually try to divide us into separate racial groups?

The idea of being American is what binds our country together. Let us keep the American and Hawaiian

tradition of including all citizens no matter where they came from.

I pray you will say no to such nonsense. Instead of dividing our citizens into different and separate racial groups, unite us all as Americans with liberty, justice and equality for all.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Puanani Burgess