



**Date:** November 24, 2009

**To:** Dick Rowland, Chairman of the Board and President Emeritus  
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**From:** Cheryl Korn, Writer  
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**RE: Results from interactive poll**

**Methodology**

Zogby International was commissioned by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii to conduct an online survey of 501 voters in Hawaii from 11/18/09 through 11/23/09.

A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to party, age, race, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population of Hawaii. The margin of error is +/- 4.5 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

**Narrative Summary**

*1. How aware would you say you are of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, which is currently pending before the U.S. Congress?*

Very aware	34%	<b>Aware</b>	<b>81%</b>
Somewhat aware	47		
Not very aware	14	<b>Not aware</b>	<b>18</b>
Not at all aware	4		
Not sure	1		

Four out of five adults surveyed in Hawaii (81%) are aware of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, which is currently pending before the U.S. Congress, however, about a fifth (18%) are not aware of such an Act.

*2. How informed would you say you are about the content of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill?*

Very informed	15%	<b>Informed</b>	<b>67*%</b>
Somewhat informed	51		
Not very informed	25	<b>Not informed</b>	<b>32</b>
Not at all informed	8		
Not sure	1		

**\*Numbers may not total 100 percent due to rounding**

Two-thirds (67%) report they are informed about the content of the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, while a third (32%) say they are not informed about such content.

3. *Would you support or oppose putting the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, on the general election ballot to let voters in Hawaii decide whether or not the bill should become law?*

Strongly support	23%	<b>Support</b>	<b>54%</b>
Somewhat support	31		
Somewhat oppose	11	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>24</b>
Strongly oppose	14		
Not sure	22		

More than half (54%) support putting the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, on the general election ballot to let voters in Hawaii decide whether or not the bill should become law, while a quarter (24%) oppose putting it on the ballot.

***The Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, would recognize native Hawaiians as a tribe similar to the laws affecting American Indian tribes. To be included under the new Hawaiian government, residents would have to be able to show proof of native Hawaiian blood in their ancestry.***

4. *Which of the following statements best reflects your point of view about the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill—Statement A or Statement B?*

***Statement A: I support the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, because I believe a native Hawaiian government is necessary to right the historical wrongs committed against native Hawaiians by the United States and the State of Hawaii.***

***Statement B: I oppose the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, because I believe passing this bill will favor one ethnic group over all others in Hawaii and amounts to a separate, raced-based government.***

Statement B	38%
Statement A	29
None of these/Other	19
Not sure	14

About two-fifths (38%) report Statement B, “I oppose the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, because I believe passing this bill will favor one ethnic group over all others in Hawaii and amounts to a separate, raced-based government,” best reflects their point of view about the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, while three in ten (29%) say Statement A, “I support the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, because I believe a native Hawaiian government is necessary to right the historical wrongs committed against native Hawaiians by the United States and the State of Hawaii,” best reflects their point of view. A fifth (19%) say neither Statement A or Statement B best reflects their point of view about the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, and 14% are not sure.

*5. Regardless of whether or not you support the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, which of the following statements represents the **best** argument for **supporting** it—Statement A, Statement B, Statement C, or Statement D? (Choose only ONE)*

**Statement A: It restores a Native Hawaiian government which was eliminated almost 120 years ago.**

**Statement B: It is only fair that native Hawaiians receive the same privileges as those granted American Indians and indigenous Alaskans.**

**Statement C: It makes native Hawaiians special, as they should be.**

**Statement D: It ensures that the native culture and practices will be preserved.**

Statement B	46%
Statement D	25
Statement A	9
Statement C	1
None of these/Other	13
Not sure	7

Regardless of whether or not they support the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, about half (46%) report Statement B, “It is only fair that native Hawaiians receive the same privileges as those granted American Indians and indigenous Alaskans,” represents the best argument supporting it, while a quarter (25%) say Statement D, “It ensures that the native culture and practices will be preserved,” is the best supporting argument. Thirteen

percent say none of these statements represents the best argument supporting the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill.

6. *Regardless of whether or not you oppose the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, which of the following statements represents the best argument for opposing it—Statement A, Statement B, Statement C, or Statement D? (Choose only ONE)*

*Statement A: It is discriminatory, favoring residents with Hawaiian ancestry over all others.*

*Statement B: It creates a separate government which would amount to a state within a state.*

*Statement C: The people of Hawaii have never been asked to vote on the Akaka Bill, so its public acceptance cannot be predicted.*

*Statement D: It is likely to carry costs that will have to be borne by non-Native Hawaiian taxpayers.*

Statement B	27%
Statement D	22
Statement A	21
Statement C	14
None of these/Other	10
Not sure	7

Again, regardless of whether or not they oppose the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, more than a quarter (27%) report Statement B, “It creates a separate government which would amount to a state within a state,” represents the best argument for opposing it, while a fifth each say Statement D, “It is likely to carry costs that will have to be borne by non-Native Hawaiian taxpayers,” (22%) or Statement A, “It is discriminatory, favoring residents with Hawaiian ancestry over all others,” (21%) is the best opposing argument. Fourteen percent report Statement C, “The people of Hawaii have never been asked to vote on the Akaka Bill, so its public acceptance cannot be predicted,” is best, and 10% say none of these statements represent the best opposing argument.

7. *If you knew that the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, provides for the enforcement of additional laws and regulations that are separate from current city/county, state, and federal laws and regulations, would you be more likely or less likely to support it, or would knowing this make no difference?*

Much more likely	2%		
Somewhat more likely	5	<b>More likely</b>	<b>7%</b>
Somewhat less likely	17	<b>Less likely</b>	<b>48</b>
Much less likely	31		
No difference	31		
Not sure	13		

Knowing that the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, provides for the enforcement of additional laws and regulations that are separate from current city/county, state, and federal laws and regulations, seven percent would be more likely to support it, while about half (48%) would be less likely to support it. About a third (31%) report knowing this information makes no difference in their opinion, and 13% are not sure.

8. *Do you agree or disagree that you would be willing to pay higher taxes to fund new programs which would be started under the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill's provisions?*

Strongly agree	5%		
Somewhat agree	12	<b>Agree</b>	<b>16%</b>
Somewhat disagree	20	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>76</b>
Strongly disagree	56		
Not sure	7		

A sixth (16%) agree that they would be willing to pay higher taxes to fund new programs which would be started under the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill's, provisions, while three-quarters (76%) disagree.

9. Do you agree or disagree that you would be willing to pay higher taxes to cover the possible loss in tax revenues where the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, may exempt Native Hawaiians?

Strongly agree	4%	<b>Agree</b>	<b>17%</b>
Somewhat agree	13		
Somewhat disagree	17	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>76</b>
Strongly disagree	59		
Not sure	7		

A sixth (17%) agree that they would be willing to pay higher taxes to cover the possible loss in tax revenues where the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, may exempt Native Hawaiians, while three-quarters (76%) disagree.

10. There are currently several hundred federally and state funded programs for Native Hawaiians in the areas of health, education, employment, economic development, and housing. Regardless of whether or not the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is passed, do you agree or disagree that these programs should continue?

Strongly agree	24%	<b>Agree</b>	<b>68%</b>
Somewhat agree	44		
Somewhat disagree	13	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>25</b>
Strongly disagree	12		
Not sure	8		

Regardless of whether or not the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is passed, two-thirds (68%) agree that the federally and state funded programs for Native Hawaiians in the areas of health, education, employment, economic development, and housing should continue, however a quarter (25%) disagree.

*The ceded lands make up 1.8 million acres or 43% of land in Hawaii, which was given (ceded) to the United States after Hawaii, was annexed by the U.S. in 1898.*

11. Which of the following best reflects your point of view about the ceded lands in Hawaii — Statement A or Statement B?

***Statement A: I think the ceded lands of Hawaii should be used for the benefit of all the people of Hawaii, not just the native Hawaiians.***

***Statement B: I think the ceded lands of Hawaii were taken by the United States from the Hawaiian Kingdom and should be under the control of native Hawaiians in perpetuity.***

Statement A	60%
Statement B	21
None of these/Other	10
Not sure	9

Six in ten (60%) report Statement A, “I think the ceded lands of Hawaii should be used for the benefit of all the people of Hawaii, not just the native Hawaiians,” best reflects their point of view about the ceded lands in Hawaii, while a fifth (21%) say Statement B, “I think the ceded lands of Hawaii were taken by the United States from the Hawaiian Kingdom and should be under the control of native Hawaiians in perpetuity,” best reflects their point of view. Ten percent say none of these statements best reflect their point of view about the ceded lands of Hawaii.



12. Which of the following best represents your point of view about the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill—Statement A or Statement B?

**Statement A: I think the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is discriminatory and gives preference to certain people based on blood and ancestry.**

**Statement B: I think the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is a fair reparation for the wrongs of the past.**

Statement A	40%
Statement B	28
None of these/Other	18
Not sure	14

Two-fifths (40%) report Statement A, “I think the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is discriminatory and gives preference to certain people based on blood and ancestry,” best represents their point of view about the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, while three in ten (28%) say Statement B “I think the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, is a fair reparation for the wrongs of the past,” best represents their point of view. About a fifth (18%) say neither Statement A nor Statement B best represent their point of view, and 14% are not sure.

13. Knowing what you know now, do you support or oppose the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill?

Strongly support	9%	<b>Support</b>	<b>34%</b>
Somewhat support	25		
Somewhat oppose	23	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>51</b>
Strongly oppose	28		
Not sure	15		

Knowing what they know now, a more than a third (34%) support the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, while half (51%) oppose it. Fifteen percent is not sure.

*14. Knowing what you know now, would you support or oppose putting the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, on the general election ballot to let voters in Hawaii decide whether or not the bill should become law?*

Strongly support	23%	<b>Support</b>	<b>58%</b>
Somewhat support	35		
Somewhat oppose	12	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>28</b>
Strongly oppose	16		
Not sure	13		

Knowing what they know now, about six in ten (58%) support putting the Native Hawaiian Reorganization Act of 2009, or the Akaka Bill, on the general election ballot to let voters in Hawai'i decide whether or not the bill should become law, however, three in ten (28%) oppose putting such an Act on the general election ballot. Thirteen percent are not sure.