

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAIHC Catches a Wave to Hawaii for Annual Convention *Training Sessions on Indian Housing and Native Hawaiian Affordable Housing Tour Offered*

WASHINGTON—February 7, 2006—Training, an opportunity to gather and discuss important Indian housing issues, and an affordable housing tour will all be offered at the **National American Indian Housing Council's (NAIHC) 32nd Anniversary Convention and Trade Show, May 22-25** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa in **Honolulu, Hawaii**. NAIHC represents American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians in reaching their self-determined goals of providing quality affordable housing for their communities.

The convention is expected to draw more than 800 attendees from tribes across the nation and various government agencies, and is the largest yearly gathering of Indian housing professionals. It is **NAIHC's** oldest event and offers an opportunity to learn about Indian housing, attend training and network with successful housing professionals. The event will include a trade show, training, regional caucus meetings and a day-long discussion on the Native American Housing Assistance & Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), which is due for reauthorization in 2007.

"This is an opportunity to share many creative solutions to use the NAHASDA funds to meet the needs of Native American people, and an opportunity for Native Hawaiians to share their progress in the use of their block grant funds," said **NAIHC Chairman Chester Carl**. "The business meeting lays out the strategic direction for the NAHASDA re-authorization."

Training and Panel Sessions Offered

Training and panel sessions will include: **asset-building** panels, **Records & Information Management**, **Grant Writing**, how to access **Low Income Housing Tax Credits**, an expanded session on how to deal with the growing **methamphetamine problem in Indian country**, including a segment on "**HAZWOPPER**" **clean-up**, among others. Also, for the first time, convention participants can participate in a "Workshop on Wheels" that will tour Native Hawaiian Homelands affordable housing developments and show participants how to leverage financial and community resources to create affordable housing. The tour is sponsored by **Washington Mutual**. The May 24 business meeting allows **NAIHC** membership to cast votes in choosing their Chairperson for the next two years.

"The training sessions at the convention, like all of NAIHC's training, are of great value to our membership," said **NAIHC Executive Director Gary L. Gordon**. "By offering our members up-to-date, relevant training, we are working directly to improve housing conditions in Indian country."

Registration & Hotel Information:

To register for the Convention, go to **NAIHC's website:** www.naihc.net and click on the advertisement for the Convention. **NAIHC's** reserved block of rooms at the Hilton is sold out. **NAIHC** has made overflow arrangements at the **Doubletree Alana Waikiki** for a rate of \$146 per night. Contact the **Doubletree** at (800) 559-4201 for reservations. **Media are welcome** to attend the Convention. For press registration, contact: Kim Hayes, (202) 454-0931 or khayes@naihc.net

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The National American Indian Housing Council (www.naihc.net) assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.