

# News Release

National American Indian Housing Council

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hawaii Governor To Address Indian Housing Convention; Other Speakers to include HUD Official, Native Author and Native Actress**

**WASHINGTON—May 4, 2006—**Hawaii’s first female Governor will speak to an expected 1,000 Indian housing leaders at the **National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Convention and Trade Show**, being held **May 22-25** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in **Honolulu, Hawaii**.

Other prominent speakers will be: the **Assistant Secretary for HUD’s Public and Indian Housing, Orlando Cabrera**, Native American activist and author **Dr. Don Bartlette** and actress **Q’orianka Kilcher** (“The New World”).

As Governor, **Linda Lingle** has worked for Native Hawaiians in her state, especially in the housing realm. Under her leadership, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has awarded more residential leases and provided more families with opportunities for homeownership than in the entire decade of the 1990s.

“Programs that empower Native Hawaiians also serve to preserve and perpetuate our host culture, without which we would lose the very essence of our islands,” said **Governor Lingle**. “For this reason, we are committed to not only building houses, but building communities for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai`i. The gift of housing is an opportunity to rebuild lives, deliver on our promises, and leave the greatest legacy we can to our children – a home they can call their own.”

### **Speakers Represent Government and Private Sector**

**Cabrera** will be representing the Housing and Urban Development Department at the Convention. He was appointed to his office in November 2005 and gave his first speech to Indian Country at **NAIHC’s** Legal Symposium in December. Cabrera was formerly the Executive Director of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and has experience in affordable housing. **Dr. Bartlette**, author of *Macaroni at Midnight*, is a public speaker and activist who will share his experiences as a Chippewa Indian child growing up with severe speech and physical handicaps. **Kilcher** is a talented young actress of Indigenous Peruvian (Quechua-Huachipaeri) descent. She most recently portrayed Pocahontas in the movie “The New World.”

“Having these varied and knowledgeable speakers will add to the overall experience of the Convention,” said **NAIHC Chairman Chester Carl**. “In addition to providing valuable training, **NAIHC** will be able to offer unique perspectives from around the country.”

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## **New and Popular Trainings Offered**

**NAIHC** represents American Indians and Alaskan Natives in reaching their self-determined goals of providing quality affordable housing for their communities. The Convention draws attendees from tribes across the nation and various government agencies and is the largest annual gathering of Indian housing professionals. In addition to speakers at the convention, **NAIHC** is offering new trainings including a “**Workshop on Wheels**” that will tour Native Hawaiian Homelands affordable housing developments; **Partnerships to Increase Tribal Homeownership; Predatory Lending; and Meth Prevention and Training.**

“At this years convention we celebrate progress we have made, but we know that we are far from done,” said **NAIHC Executive Director Gary Gordon**. “Housing is an integral part of our tribal communities and there are still severe housing needs throughout Indian Country. Quality housing is essential to uphold family health, children’s education, and quality living. That’s why **NAIHC’s** training and other services are so indispensable.”

## **New Chairman to be Elected; NAHASDA Reauthorization Discussed**

During the convention, **NAIHC** will also conduct a Business Meeting of members where a new Chairman will be elected. In addition, during a Legislative Committee meeting, **NAIHC** members will discuss their position on the issues related to the 2007 reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA).

For further information on the Business Meeting, resolutions and the Chairman election-nomination & qualification procedures, please visit **NAIHC’s** Web site: [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net) or contact Lena Duncan, (800) 284-9165 or [lduncan@naihc.net](mailto:lduncan@naihc.net).

## **Registration & Hotel Information:**

To register for the Convention, go to **NAIHC’s website:** [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net) and click on the advertisement for the Convention. The Hilton has sold out, but you can make overflow reservations at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel (808) 949-3811 or (800) 245-4524. The rate is \$169 for single/double.

## **MEDIA REGISTRATION**

**Media are welcome to attend the Convention. For media registration, contact: Kim Hayes, (202) 454-0931 or [khayes@naihc.net](mailto:khayes@naihc.net).**

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*The National American Indian Housing Council 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.*

*NAIHC....A Tradition of Native American Housing*

*([www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net))*