

# Legislature gets sovereignty request

## Group petitions for referendum

By Kevin Dayton  
Advertiser Capitol Bureau

Hawaiian sovereignty supporters yesterday gave the Legislature some pointed reminders that they expect action on the sovereignty question.

Hawaiians from Windward Oahu hiked through the Wilson Tunnel early yesterday and through Kalihi Valley during morning rush hours to carry a petition to the Legislature.

Police at the Kaneohe and Kalihi substations said the marchers caused traffic to back up on the Likelike Highway but caused no disturbances. A police motorcycle and patrol car escorted the marchers through Kalihi.

No permit was issued for the march, city and state officials said.

About 60 Hawaiians took part in the march and later visited the House and Senate galleries during opening ceremonies at the State Office Tower.

Dawn Wasson, a member of the Kuleana Land Owners group that held the march, presented the petition to House Speaker Joseph Souki and Senate President James Aki on the ewa lawn of the state Capitol after the Legislature's opening ceremonies.

Wasson said the petition calls on lawmakers to clamp a moratorium on use by non-Hawaiians of lands that are held in trust for Hawaiians.

She said the group is also seeking a referendum for all Hawaiians to give them an opportunity to decide which of the competing visions of sovereignty should be implemented.

"The Hawaiian people have waited long enough," she said. "(State Demo-

crats) must deal with the issue of sovereignty immediately."

Many of the Kuleana marchers also joined with a group of about 20 Ka Lahui Hawai'i supporters who also spoke with Aki, Souki and other House and Senate leaders on the ewa lawn. Ka Lahui is the largest of the pro-sovereignty groups.

Mililani Trask, governor of Ka Lahui, presented the lawmakers with a draft bill that among other things would turn over 1.6 million acres of ceded and Hawaiian Homelands to Ka Lahui to use "for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians and their descendents."

She told lawmakers that the presentation of the draft bill was designed to show "that we still have faith in the legislative process of the state."

Trask said she knows the measure will be controversial, and said she expects it to be opposed by other Hawaiian groups and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

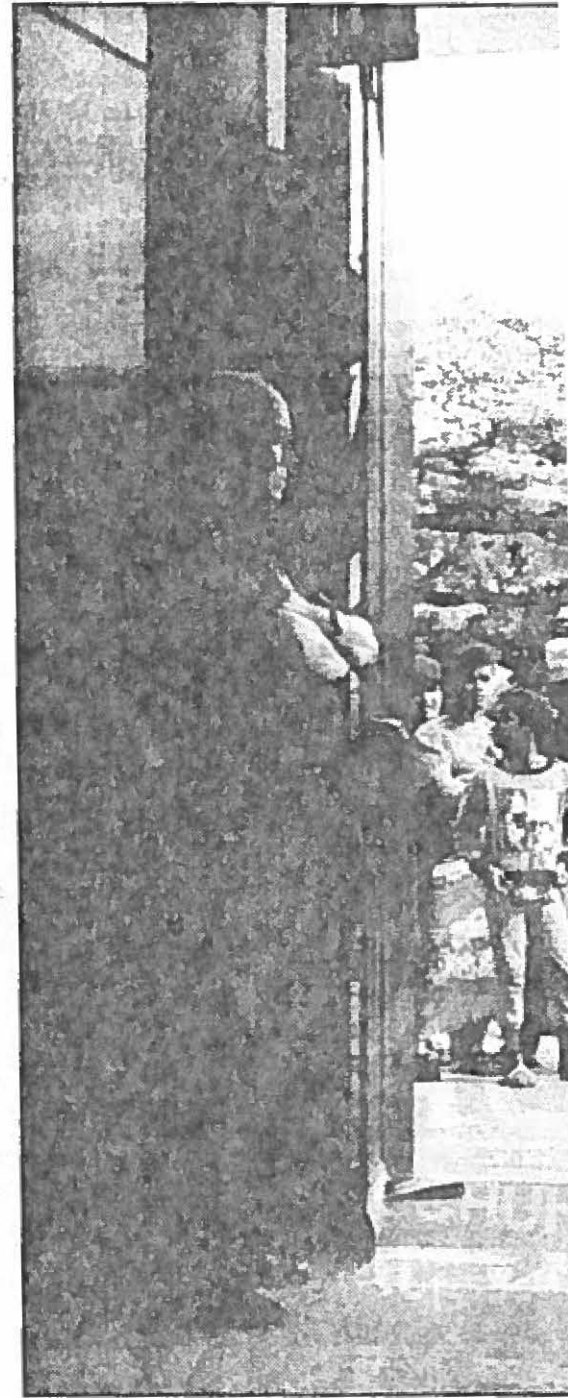
But if the bill as submitted is not acceptable, Trask told the House and Senate leadership that "we look forward to entertaining your counter-proposals."

"I expect to generate lots of rigorous debate," she said.

Aki said after the meeting that the bill will be introduced in the Senate, and will get a committee hearing.

He also said he agrees with Trask that if the Legislature does not like her proposal, it has an obligation to propose alternatives.

"This is a big issue — we've got to do something this year," he said.



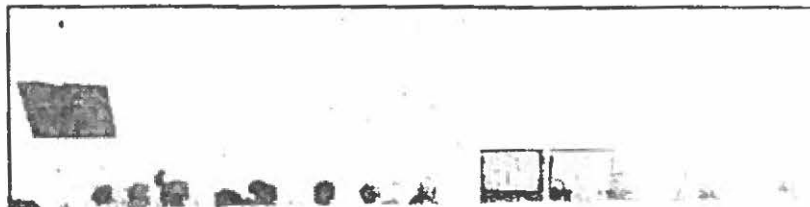
A state security guard stands at the front of the State Office Tower as Kuleana Land Owners chant outside.

# Austerity dulls a once-grand day

## Tiny crowd with mixed motives attends 17th opening

By Bob Krauss  
Advertiser Columnist

About 200 citizens journeyed Downtown yesterday morning to watch the opening of the 17th Legislature on TV screens set up under tents on the State



Randy Kalahehi, his Mel, and Pa'olaniira caused a group of Hawaiian sovereignty marchers from were to arrive at noon.

Dr. Ed Tachibana of Medical Center attend