

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KE PONO" -- The life of this land is perpetuated by righteousness.

This creed of Hawaii is still true for native peoples who originally occupied this country. The love and respect of the land plays a great part in their lives and continues to multiply as the struggle for land rights and upholding treaty agreements continues.

The native peoples from what is now called North and South America, Alaska and Hawaii, have systematically had their land, hence their lives and livelihood, their cultures, and their religions taken away by the White missionary and pilgrim. Today the native Alaskans, Hawaiians, and Indians are among the poorest in this country. Yet, look at Hawaii's resorts and hotels and the rich resources stripped from the Alaskan and Indian nations' land.

November 17 has been set to celebrate Indigenous People's Day. It is viewed as an alternative to "Thanksgiving Day," which to many symbolizes years of economic greed and broken treaties. We will open the day with a traditional Indian Shaker song and a blessing in the Hawaiian language, followed by a panel discussion on "SURVIVAL, In Light of Reagan's 'New Federalism.'" We will bring together native Coastal Indians, native Alaskans and native Hawaiians to focus on their individual concerns relating to this issue. Such topics will include: the impact on current land claims, treaty rights, sovereignty, health and educational benefits. Following the panel discussion will be two workshops. One will be on the history of the native Hawaiian dance. The instruments, various costumes used and styles of dance will be explained and demonstrated. Next is a presentation on the history of native Indian clothing from various tribes throughout the U.S. A small fashion show will be given to display the clothing, some of which date back to the 1800s. The day will conclude with a light meal at nominal cost in the Campus Activities Building, room 110. Part of the menu will include baked salmon and fry bread.

There will also be a raffle of an Indian blanket, all proceeds go to the Northwest Indian Center. Tickets will be available November 10 and on sale throughout the day. The drawing will be held at the dinner.

There is no admission charge and all events are open to the public. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 866-6034. The event is scheduled to begin at noon in the Library Lobby of The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. It is sponsored by the Northwest Indian Center, Asian/Pacific Isle Coalition, MEChA, Ujamaa, Third World Women and the Third World Coalition. This year, we would like to dedicate Indigenous People's Day in memory of faculty member Mary Hillaire--a brave and courageous Lummi woman who has been an inspiration to us all.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE