
1943-2012- Kihei Soli Niheu- Hawaiian Nationalist and Activist.

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A Short Video Statement on National Parks by Kihei Soli Niheu-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiftoGIX028>

Kihei “Soli” Niheu — Hawaiian Nationalist and Activist

Kihei “Soli” Niheu (1943–2012) was a prominent Hawaiian nationalist, activist, and leader in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, known for his decades-long commitment to protecting Ni‘ihau, opposing U.S. militarism, and advancing Indigenous rights across the Pacific 🌐 maoliworld.com+1 ·

Early Life and Activism

Niheu was born in Ni‘ihau and studied in San Jose, California. Upon returning to Hawai‘i, he was called by his Ni‘ihau family to prevent the sale of the island, marking the beginning of his activism

🌐 maoliworld.com · He became a spokesperson for his Ni‘ihau ‘ohana and was involved in antiwar protests and the push for ethnic studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa 🌐 maoliworld.com ·

Key Roles and Organizations

- **Kōkua Hawai‘i:** Co-founder of this group, instrumental in organizing against the evictions of Kalama Valley residents, often seen as the reemergence of Hawaiian activism 🌐 maoliworld.com ·
- **HULI (Hawaiians United for Liberation and Independence):** Lead member advocating for Hawaiian independence 🌐 maoliworld.com ·
- **Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP):** Represented Ka Pae ‘Āina ‘o Hawai‘i in this movement 🌐 maoliworld.com ·
- **Hui Pū:** Founding member of a coalition opposing federal recognition in favor of self-determination 🌐 maoliworld.com ·
- **Kōmike Tribunal:** Co-founded with Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell to investigate the U.S. role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy 🌐 maoliworld.com ·

Wider Activism

Niheu was active in numerous Nā Kānaka Maoli struggles, including Niumalu-Nāwiliwil, Waiāhole-Waikāne, Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana, and Mauna Kea protection efforts 🌐 maoliworld.com . He also traveled internationally, building alliances with Indigenous leaders such as Titewhai and Hone Harawira of Aotearoa and Oscar Temaru of Tahiti 🌐 maoliworld.com .

Legacy

Known affectionately as **Papa Soli**, he was respected for his articulate advocacy, humor, and unwavering belief in Hawaiian sovereignty. His work spanned from grassroots community defense to international Indigenous solidarity. He is remembered as a “great warrior” who fought for the historic right of Kānaka Maoli to independence 🌐 maoliworld.com .

Tributes

Following his death on November 30, 2012, a memorial service was held at ʻIolani Palace, followed by an overnight vigil, honoring his contributions to Hawaiian and Indigenous rights 🌐 maoliworld.com .

Niheu’s life and work remain a cornerstone of Hawaiian political and cultural resistance, inspiring generations of activists.