Institutional Racism/Discrimination in Public Education in Hawai ʻi

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A. Racism

1. Belief (false) races inherently (biologically) inferior (or superior) to one another
2. Belief (false) race causally related to intelligence, personality, morality, other socially significant attributes
3. “Colorblind racism” contends race should not have any formal significance in society; America already is/should be colorblind (vs. race conscious) society
4. Colorblindness dominant racial ideology in US
5. Evident in lawsuit by Judicial Watch and Grassroot Institute of Hawai ʻi against election organized by Na ʻi Aipuni for ʻAha constitutional convention

B. Discrimination

1. Unfair/unequal treatment (action) denies individual or group same opportunities and privileges enjoyed by others
2. Institutional discrimination (structural racism) occurs through policies, practices, laws result in unfair/unequal treatment in government, law, economy and education
3. May be legal, not intentional, often covert
4. Redefined as denial of individual (not group) rights since 1970s (anti-affirmative movement)

C. Examples of Institutional Discrimination

K-12

1. Underfunding of schools at $278M per year to provide “adequate education”
2. Closing schools for 17 days in 2009-2010 (furlough Fridays)

UH

1. Raising tuition substantially
2. Recruiting students from continental US
3. Nonenforcement of BOR policy on non-discrimination and affirmative action and equal employment opportunity laws

D. Consequences of Discrimination in Education

DOE Students by Ethnicity (2013-2014)		**UH Mānoa Undergraduates by Ethnicity** (Fall 2015)
Native Hawaiians	26	14
Filipino Americans	22	11
Whites	17	21
Japanese Americans	9.0	10
Micronesians	4.0	.005
Latinos	3.8	0.2
Samoans	3.5	0.8
Chinese Americans	3.2	7.0

% with Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25 years and older)

Japanese Americans	34.9
Whites	35.0
Chinese Americans	31.1
Hawai'i median	*29.4*
Filipino Americans	17.3
Native Hawaiians	14.5
Samoans	8.8

Source: American Community Survey 2010 (5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010)

College or Graduate School Enrollment (%) (18-24 year olds)

Whites	28.3
Hawai ʻi median	*28.0*
Japanese Americans	26.1
Chinese Americans	22.4
Filipino Americans	20.9
Native Hawaiians	16.9
Samoans	14.0

Source: American Community Survey 2010 (5-Year Estimates, 2006-2010)

E. Conclusions re Public Education

1. Serves as means for individual but not collective mobility for minorities
2. Rather than providing equal educational opportunity, serves to maintain ethnic inequality
3. To foster ethnic inequality, need to diversify economy away from overdependence on tourism