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Volume 25 Number 7 **The Militia of Molokai's Community Newspaper—Every Wednesday** February 18, 2009



The Molokai Valentine Tree located near MP-15.5 eastend is that same little tree that grew from seed inside a cut off utility pole at Castanera's driveway. They have cared for it for years as a Merry Christmas Tree, a Happy New Years Tree. How unique and pono is that, Molokai? GREAAAAT!

Welcome to ObamalandUSA: Broken Promises, Lies, and Frauds

Usurper of the Office of President Obama has had, by general consent, a torrid First Fortnight. To put it another way, it has taken precisely two weeks for the illusion that brought him to power to be exposed for the nonsense that it so obviously was. The transformational candidate who was going to sweep away pork-barrel politics, lobbyists and corruption has been up to his neck in sleaze, as eviscerated here by Charles Krauthammer. Despite the fact that he came to power promising to 'ban all earmarks', his 'stimulus' bill represents billions of dollars of special-interest tax breaks, giveaways and protections -- which have nothing to do with kick-starting the economy and everything to do with favouring pet Democrat causes. And, now Congress to give 300,000 Stimulus jobs to illegal aliens with Obama's blessings!

The Stimulus bill would provide about 300,000 jobs in the construction industry to illegal aliens since it does not contain the E-Verify mandate of the House bill. The Senate bill would provide about \$104 billion in funding for construction projects, creating jobs for about 2.04 million construction workers over several years. Government estimates indicate that currently about one out of every seven workers hired for construction is an illegal alien, or about 300,000 for this bill.

This debacle could largely be prevented if the bill is amended to add the House provision that requires participation in the E-Verify program by those who receive stimulus funds. It's important to ensure that jobs go to citizens, not illegal aliens.

Ban Gun rights: Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel spoke [page 2]



ObamalandHawaiiUSA: Papers Please!

American Citizens who can remember the Nazi and fascist regimes of Europe, WWII, and know a little history of America, land of the FREE, take umbridge at the federal [OBAMA administration] enforcement of 9/11 police state policy enforcement even at Kaunakakai Pier where everyone gets their freight brought in by Young Brothers barge. While the new federal guards are polite, just doing their job, taking our papers for National Security is an Un-Constitutional act. Stop it!

All the water that will ever be is, right now.
National Geographic, Oct 1993

CONSERVE!!

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Stop War on Drugs 2009

Every day that goes by, 4,000 people are arrested for drug offenses, the vast majority of them minor, and half a million nonviolent drug offenders languish in the staggering number of prisons and jails the fascist Police State American government has very unwisely built.

It's time to stop this senseless tragedy and shocking injustice.
Stop the drug war -- visit <http://stopthedrugwar.org/donate> to donate to StoptheDrugWar.org today. Thank you!

What will Barack Hussein Obama do about What Happened on 9-11-01?

On September 11, 2001, we Americans were the victims of TREASON.
By September 12, we Americans all became the suspects watched by FBI.
Not one single U.S. citizen hijacked a plane, yet President Bush and DOJ, through powers seized and codified in the fascist USA PATRIOT Act, labeled 270 million of us for surveillance, for searches, for tracking, for prison without charges. Welcome to the New World Order! Police State USA!
So, what will Obama do to restor freedom if he is President?

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ObamalandUSA cont'd pg 1: Broken Promises, Lies, and Frauds

Usurper of the Office of President, Obama

Ban Guns: Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel spoke as congressman in favor of the Brady Gun Ban and prohibition of gun ownership for anyone listed on the federal government's "No Fly List," which now includes more than one million Americans and is increasing at a rate of 20,000 per month. Are you on it? Can you find out? NO way to find out!! And Obama himself is lying about his past record of gun rights support, because he actually supported a total ban on the manufacture, sale, and possession of all handguns.

Obama has been appointing one tax dodger, lobbyist and wheeler-dealer after another. After appointing one official, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who had unaccountably forgotten to pay his taxes, he then watched his designated Health Secretary Tom Daschle fall on his sword because he too had taken a tax holiday. Daschle was furthermore a prominent actor in the world of lobbying and influence-peddling. Leon Panetta, Obama's nominee for Director of the CIA has also, according to the Wall Street Journal, consulted for prominent companies and sat on the board of a public affairs firm that lobbies Congress. The Weekly Standard reports that Secretary of Labour nominee Hilda Solis was not only involved with a private organization lobbying her fellow legislators on a bill that she helped sponsor, but she apparently kept her involvement secret and failed to reveal a clear conflict of interest.

In foreign policy, Obama has started by trashing his own country through grossly misrepresenting its history and grovelling to America's enemies such as Iran, which has flicked him aside with undiluted contempt. He has gratuitously upset America's ally India by suggesting that America should muscle in and resolve the Kashmir question.

His right hand doesn't seem to know what his left hand is doing. He reportedly asked retired Marine General Anthony Zinni to be US ambassador to Iraq, but then abruptly withdrew the appointment without explanation after it had been confirmed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. And the precise role he is offering Dennis Ross – special envoy to Iran? Special adviser to Hillary? Special adviser to other special advisers? – remains mired in confusion.

I have argued before however that, given Obama's radical roots in the neo-Marxist, nihilist politics of Saul Alinsky, it is the undermining of America's fundamental values that is likely to be this President's most strategically important goal. I have also suggested that, since this agenda is promoted through stealth politics which gull the credulous middle-classes while destroying the ground upon which they are standing, his second-tier appointments should be closely scrutinised.

And here's a humdinger. Obama has picked a man called David Ogden to be deputy Attorney-General. Ogden has made his legal career from representing pornographers, trying to defeat child protection legislation and undermining family values. As FoxNews reported this week, he once represented a group of library directors arguing against the Children's Internet Protection Act, which ordered libraries and schools receiving funding for the Internet to restrict access to obscene sites. And on behalf of several media groups, he successfully argued against a child pornography law that required publishers to verify and document the age of their models, which would have ensured these models were at least 18.

The Family Research Council has more examples of his contribution to upholding American and western values. In one such case, he expressed the view that abortion was less damaging to a woman than having children:

In sum, it is grossly misleading to tell a woman that abortion imposes possible detrimental psychological effects when the risks are negligible in most cases, when the evidence shows that she is more likely to experience feelings of relief and happiness, and when child-birth and child-rearing or adoption may pose concomitant (if not greater) risks or adverse psychological effects ...

In another, co-authored brief, he argued that it was an unconstitutional burden on 14-year old girls seeking an abortion for their parents to be notified -- because there was no difference between adults and mid-teens in their ability to grasp all the implications of such a decision:

There is no question that the right to secure an abortion is fundamental. By any objective standard, therefore, the decision to abort is one that a reasonable person, including a reasonable adolescent, could make. [E]mpirical studies have found few differences between minors aged 14-18 and adults in their understanding of information and their ability to think of options and consequences when asked to consider treatment-related decisions. These unvarying and highly significant findings indicate that with respect to the capacity to understand and reason logically, there is no qualitative or quantitative difference between minors in mid-adolescence, i.e., about 14-15 years of age, and adults.

And how did the 44th President react to the growing public dismay over the mess he was making? He threw his toys out of the pram -- or perhaps that should read, he got into the pram. For he fled the scene of the disaster and sought the company of seven year-olds instead. As the Telegraph reported:

'We were just tired of being in the White House,' he told a group of excited seven-year-olds before discussing Batman and reading them a book.

Tired of being President – after two weeks!

Tax cheats, pork-barrel politics, ancillary child abuse, incompetence, chaos, treachery and infantilism. America – what have you done?!

Posted by Dr. Orly Taitz

"Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God." T.J.
Preserve YOUR Sovereignty:
Enforce the Bill of Rights!



Bill of Rights 2nd Amendment:
“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”
Wake up militia! Use it , or lose it ! Got your gun, yet?

"...with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, or fortunes and our sacred honor."
 (Unanimous Declaration of Independence)

If you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed, and, if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than live as slaves.

"The people cannot delegate to government the power to do anything which would be unlawful for them to do themselves."- John Locke

"Those who make peaceful change impossible, make violent change inevitable." -- Robert F. Kennedy

"Rebellion against tyrants is obedience to God." T.J.

Enforce the Bill of Rights !

"And how we burned in the camps later, thinking: What would things have been like if every Security operative [insert your favorite alphabet Gang DEA, BATFE, H.S., TSA, FBI, IRS, NSA, CIA, LEOs etc. here], when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive and had to say goodbye to his family? Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling in terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose [neither do you now] and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand. The Organs would very quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and transports and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst; the cursed machine would have ground to a halt!" -- The Gulag Archipelago, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Gun Rights Hawaii threatened

.50 cal rifle and ammo to be banned! Feb. 28

Please Contact the Members of the House Public Safety Committee Today!
 50 cal BAN February 28 HB2999

The House Judiciary Committee will hold decision-making on this bill, HB2999, on Thursday, February 28th at 2:50 p.m. in Room 325 of the State Capitol. It is the only bill on the agenda. As this is decision-making only, no public testimony will be accepted. (See blog post on 2/23/08 for a summary .)

The bill proposes several things, but the controversial part of the measure is the following: Prohibits importation, manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of any .50 BMG rifle or .50 BMG cartridge.

While the State Department of Defense, HPD and SHOPO supported the bill, the overwhelming majority of testifiers who are gun advocates strongly opposed the bill.

LETTER: Dear members of the House Public Safety Committee: On February 28, you legislators of the Hawaii Public Safety Committee will hear legislation HB2999 for decision making that could have dire consequences for our Right to Keep and Bear Arms in Hawaii.

I, along with thousands of law abiding Hawaii gun owners, respectfully urge you to protect the Second Amendment rights of Hawaii's law-abiding citizens by opposing HB2999, SB 1336, HB412, HB88 and all other bills that infringe on our right to keep and bear arms of our choice, and remind you of your duty to protect and defend our rights that are Constitutionally protected, e.g. the 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. The .50 cal ban clearly infringe on our right to keep and bear arms. You have taken a solemn Oath of Office to uphold and defend and preserve the 2nd Amendment which is part of both the Constitution for the united States of America and the Hawaii State Constitution. HB 88 is tantmount to proposing TREASON, and the introducer Rep John Mizuno should be impeached out of office for violating his Oath. Remember, you folks are supposed to be PROTECTING our RIGHTS.

STOP HB 88, and all other anti gun rights legislation. And repeal all of Chapte 134 HRS because it too, all of it, is unConstitutional violations of my right to keep and bear arms.

mahalos, George Peabody

Gun Rights Refresher

1. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.
2. A gun in the hand is better than a cop on the phone.
3. If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words.
4. "Free" men do not ask permission to bear arms.
5. If you don't know your rights you don't have any.
6. Those who trade liberty for security have neither.
7. What part of "shall not be infringed" do you not understand?
8. The Second Amendment is to enforce the other 9 Amendments.
9. 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday.
10. Guns only have two enemies; rust and politicians.
11. Know guns, know peace, know safety.
12. No guns, no peace, no safety.
13. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive.
14. 911 - government sponsored Dial-a-Prayer.
15. Assault is a behavior, not a gun device.
16. Criminals love gun control -- it makes their jobs safer.
17. If guns cause crime, then matches cause arson.
18. Only a government that is afraid of citizens prohibits guns.
19. You only have the rights you are willing to fight for.
20. Remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves.
21. The American Revolution was about gun control.

Crimes of Politicians Must Be Stopped by The People (You are The Militia)

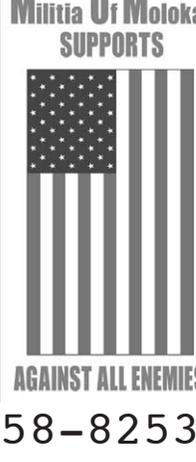
The crime on our streets is a tiny fraction of the crime in the offices of our politicians and bureaucrats - the massive majority of crime is committed by the criminal classes in power. Just look at the constant abuse of power in our State government offices and you will realize the extent of crime in Government. Just consider just how many BILLIONS of dollars a day Government extorts from the people and how little WE get in return; and just how comfortable the politicians make themselves at the expense of the peoples they extort!

The goal of the founders of America was to restrict government within severe limits and to protect the rights of sovereign individuals. Government has NO rights! Judges are impeachable. Furthermore, judges may be removed immediately for violating oaths of office, involvement in conspiracies, extortion, and failing to uphold their duty to the common law. Judges can also be arrested, they are not exempt from this nor are any other officials, including the President of the United States.

Do the people have the power to do this? Yes, the people have the power to do everything to defend our country against all enemies foreign or domestic politician, and government has no power to say otherwise. Fascist bureaucrats might send out its armed marauders, but a huge group of The People (Militia) armed with guns as guaranteed their Right to keep and bear arms by the 2nd Amendment is likely to stop them unless the governments decide that it is time to begin mass killings of all people who believe in the rights of Man.

Wake up ! Enforce the Bill of Rights !

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Exercise the 2nd Amendment.

S A F E T Y !	 <p>Private Lessons; Livefire Practice</p>	 <p>M.O.M.'S Guns & Safety Training/ Education</p>	 <p>Militia Or Molokai SUPPORTS</p>	<p>Bill of Rights 2nd Amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."</p> <p>Use it or lose it ! ph. 558-8253 Join the club! N.R.A.</p>	F R E E D O M
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Mahalo Molokai for your SUPPORT !

Molokai High School Events

Wondering what Challenge Day February 19 is all about?

There will be a Challenge Day Ohana Night on Thursday February 19 at 6:00 p.m. in MHS Library. Have you heard of Challenge Day? Do you want to find out what the buzz is about? Want to see what your child experienced? Come to the Challenge Day Ohana Night to get all your questions answered and find out how you can help Be The Change! Refreshments and door prizes, too.

Social Studies Ohana Night

Please join us on Thursday, March 5 for our Cruise through History Ohana Night from 6:00 p.m. in MHS Library. We will be highlighting student work from Social studies, Hawaiian Language & HLIP for quarters 1, 2, & 3. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

Science Fair Thank You

Special thanks go out to our Science Fair Team Chaperones and Students:

Thank you to Stephanie Stanley, Daniel Espaniola, and Elizabeth Poepoe for escorting our science fair students to Maui.

Congratulations to our students who came through for our high school once again. The following students won the following awards:

Kyle MacMillan, Ryan Johnston, Eric Gilliland

1. Maui Electrical Environment Award
2. The "RICO" Award
3. Honorable Mention

Kelli Kawano, Lynsey Dudoit-Alapai, Darianne Ruiz

1. The U.S. Army of Engineering Award
2. Honorable Mention

Aulani Hiro

1. Honorable Mention

Obituary

Maryan Sentel, 72, of Hoolehua, HI, died on February 5, 2009 in Honolulu., HI. She was born in Molokai June 1936. She was a retired housekeeper for Kaluakoi Sheraton Hotel and Resort. She is survived by her sons, John Freeman, Noah Freeman, Tracy Kuoha and Matt Davids; daughters, Faith Tuipulotu and Barbara Sentel; sisters, April Apo, Myrna Mae Kaupu, Sarah Joy and Nona Shepherd; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Private services.

Arrangements by: Ultimate Cremation Services of Hawaii.

Hawaiian Coot Dies on Molokai

"Cootie", the endangered Hawaiian Coot you rescued from the beach at Waialua, passed away last Thursday. There was no way to know that she had a deadly fungal infection known as aspergillosis. I'm so sorry. It is apparently the first known case of aspergillosis in a Hawaiian Coot and it is not known how she would have contracted it. The disease was mostly likely the reason why the bird was reluctant to fly when captured and why the wings drooped slightly (see your photo).



The necropsy was performed by Dr. Thierry Work and Bob Rameyer at the U.S. Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center, Honolulu Field Office.

Dr. Work is a veterinarian and has been the wildlife disease specialist at the N.W.H.C. since 1992. Some of his research includes coral diseases across the Hawaiian Archipelago, and the tumors found on Hawaii's Green Turtles (Relating tumor score to hematology in Green Turtles with Fibropapillomatosis in Hawaii (Journal of Wildlife Diseases 1999). It was Dr. Work's paper on Sick Owl Syndrome that was referenced in the M.A.N. 7-25-07.

Arleone Dibben-Young

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Why milk is re-pasteurized in Hawaii? It is shipped here un-refrigerated....!!

by Larry Geller

A story in the Advertiser, Local milk back in stores, hides an important piece of information was almost omitted, though, and it's one you need to know about if you buy "local" milk at your favorite supermarket: Re-pasteurization is necessary because the milk is shipped to Hawaii in unrefrigerated containers.

Hidden at the very end of the story continuation is this incomplete revelation:

Most milk imported from the Mainland, while it can be characterized as being produced locally because it is repasteurized in Hawai'i, cannot be labeled with the state's "Island Fresh" origin mark unless it contains at least 90 percent local milk.

Repasteurizing, or reprocessing, adds about eight days to the age of imported Mainland milk, which can be between 25 to 30 days old by the time it reaches its shelf expiration date.

So now you have the scary picture: milk is shipped to Hawaii unrefrigerated, can be a month old at its expiration date, and of course sells for far more than folks on the Continent pay for a fresher, cleaner product. Ugh.

Whatever the little microbes did in the milk stays there, though they themselves are killed by the re-pasteurization before it is sold to you. Ugh.

The article doesn't say whether Big Island milk is shipped to Oahu refrigerated. I'm also curious about whether the Big Island dairies use hormones and antibiotics, of course, but that's another topic.

RUNNING NEWS

Obama Supports Lingle on Ceded Lands: No Legal

by Larry Geller

We wondered where the Obama Administration would come down in the dispute, considering our new president's hometown ties to the Aloha State. Here's the answer: In an amicus brief filed last week, the Justice Department is supporting Hawaii's position. (It also requested 10 minutes of argument time at the Court.) The brief, signed by acting Solicitor General Edwin Kneedler, says the U.S. has key interests, including military bases, on the disputed land.

The argument is set for Feb. 25. [American Lawyer.com, In Supreme Court Aloha State Land Dispute, It's Wilmer v. W&C, 2/5/2009]

The same website has another article, Who Owns 1.2 Million Acres in Hawaii? Waxman, Williams & Connolly Headed to SCOTUS to Find Out (2/5/2009) which describes the case and closes with this curious comment:

The case also brings in claims of moral law. The Williams & Connolly brief includes this sentence: "Regardless whether Native Hawaiians have legal claims to ceded land, however, they clearly have broader moral and political claims." It will be interesting to hear what the justices make of this.

I thought that was curious, because lawyers are supposed to deal with the law as it is written and interpreted. I didn't think morality figured into it much. Seriously. If it did, Native Americans would have had justice a long time ago. If it did, the US would not be allowed to detain anyone indefinitely or practice torture. If it did, we wouldn't be in an illegal war in Iraq.

If there were such a thing as moral law, Hawaii would not be a state now.

Obama's education chief, tolerated massive abuse in his schools

by Larry Geller

Obama's appointee to US Secretary of Education is Arne Duncan. It seems he failed to terminate perpetrators in 96% of the verified cases of abuse while he was in charge of Chicago schools.

CBS 2 informed former Chicago Public School CEO Arne Duncan of our investigative findings shortly before he was promoted to U.S. Secretary of Education. "If someone hits a student, they are going to be fired. It's very, very simple," Duncan said.

Before heading to Washington, he vowed to take action. "Any founded allegation where an adult is hitting a child, hitting a student - they're going to be gone," Duncan said.

But that's not what happened under Duncan's watch. Of the 568 verified cases, only 24 led to termination. . .

And another student was given "100 licks with a belt." The abuse was substantiated, but the records show the teacher was not terminated.

There is a state law that bans corporal punishment. But as our 2 Investigators first exposed in September - students are being hit by coaches too. Paddles were confiscated, and CBS 2 exposed gym security tape at Simeon Career Academy showing a coach paddling volleyball players reportedly for missing serves.

Duncan has already assumed his position. It's just another bad mark against Obama's choices to help him lead the country.

“O” says its ok to Rendition, and Cite “State Secrets”

By Anthony Gregory on Feb 16, 2009 in Civil Liberties, Constitution, Criminal Justice, Law, Personal Liberty, Presidential Power, Torture

Those who hoped the rise of Obama would sig-

nify a shift toward more respect for civil liberties must be disappointed about this: The new administration fully embraces the last administration's stance on state secrets and foreign detainees in the war on terror. Rather than the "states secrets" privilege being introduced rarely and depending on the circumstances, cases involving the torture of renditioned detainees would be thrown out of court wholesale. These cases have been discussed in the press and investigated and exposed for years, but supposedly mentioning them in federal court would endanger national security.

The Democratic Congress appears that it may still attempt to rein Obama in on this, as the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee tried to with Bush. And at least some critics—the ACLU, some liberal bloggers like Glenn Greenwald, libertarians, constitutionalist conservatives—are voicing protest, but, unfortunately, much of the mainstream press and the pro-Obama left are defending the administration. Furthermore, there are reasons to worry that renditions would actually be expanded under Obama.

SO Many Lies Obama!

Senator Obama stated in August 2007 that he "would not have the Justice Department prosecuting and raiding medical marijuana users... It's not a good use of our resources." In March 2008, he reiterated that: "I'm not going to be using Justice Department resources to try to circumvent state laws on this issue."

So many lies and deceptions of this Obama regime—and he's only been in office for a month! Don't blame me, I voted for a REAL American, one who isn't afraid to PROVE he's an American born HERE. One who don't need to seal his records to hide his true past. One who believes in America FIRST, I voted for Ron Paul

Obama spokesperson told the San Francisco Chronicle: "Voters and legislators in the states -- from California to Nevada to Maine -- have decided to provide their residents suffering from chronic diseases and serious illnesses like AIDS and cancer with medical marijuana to relieve their pain and suffering. Obama supports the rights of states and local governments to make this choice."

ASA, the country's largest medical marijuana advocacy group, jumped in with calls for President Obama and Attorney General Holder to turn promises into policy. "As the new Attorney General, one of Eric Holder's top priorities should be to end these harmful raids on state-sanctioned medical marijuana providers," said ASA director of government affairs Caren Woodson. "And, until a new head of the DEA is confirmed, Holder has a responsibility to cease the existing policy being carried out by Bush Administration officials. Attorney General Holder has the ability to halt this harmful and outdated policy," said Woodson. "And he should do so immediately."

"President Obama needs to show federal agencies who is boss," said DPA national affairs director Bill Piper. "If he doesn't put a halt to these raids, the DEA will continue to undermine his campaign promises."

And the media blast and false arrests related to Olympic Swimmer Michael Phelps using a marijuana bong is nuts. Nobody would care if this guy was photographed holding a martini or a bottle of beer, yet there is all this uproar despite there being no dispute that alcohol is the more dangerous drug; really, the laws don't make any sense.

"This has struck a nerve like never before," said DPA's Ethan Nadelmann. "It is a case of overreach that provides an opportunity for the movement," he said. "When you look at the overwhelming majority of responses to this, it was give me a break, we have a president who smoked pot, enough with this hypocrisy."

MEANWHILE, by Thursday morning, ASA was tentatively congratulating the White House for its reiteration of those campaign pledges. "More than 72 million people live in a state that has enacted laws that authorize the limited use and distribution of cannabis for therapeutic use," Woodson said. "The White House's comments have provided patients and

their loved ones a sense of relief, and we hope the President and our Attorney General will keep this pledge in mind when considering appointments to the DEA and Office of National Drug Control Policy."

Obama's choice for Director of ONDCP -- Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske ?

(http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/572/seattle_police_chief_kerlikowske_named_drug_czar_ONDCP)

Though Kerlikowske has been in law enforcement for 36 years -- a medical or public health professional might make a better pick -- he is an advocate for community-oriented policing and investing in crime prevention. Kerlikowske opposed a ballot measure in Seattle to make marijuana possession the lowest law enforcement priority, but he also said it was already a low priority, and marijuana possession arrests by his department have dropped substantially since the measure's enactment. Medical marijuana is legal in Seattle, and the city runs needle exchanges and other programs based on the philosophy of harm reduction. Kerlikowske has not been an outspoken advocate for those programs, but neither has he stood in their way.

For there to be real change in the drug war, Kerlikowske must immediately learn that he has inherited an agency that has consistently failed to achieve its goals and to tell the truth to the American people. If Obama believes in a transparent, honest, evidence-based drug control policy, it will be up to Kerlikowske, once confirmed, to make that a reality.

In the report, the commission calls for more humane and effective drug strategies. It emphasizes the following broad themes:

- * Treat drug use as a public health issue;
- * Reduce consumption through information and prevention actions;
- * Focus on enforcement against organized crime.

The commission also called on governments and civil society around the globe to "assess in the light of public health and advanced medical science the possibility of decriminalizing possession of marijuana for personal consumption."

TRAVEL TO CUBA SOON OPENING ?

Congress is considering lifting travel restrictions between the US and Cuba. A bill is headed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee that has eight cosponsors so far and is gaining support.

Even the Catholic Church came out a couple of days ago in favor of lifting the travel ban:

In addition, [Stephen] Colechchi [director of the bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace] expects legislation allowing Americans to travel directly from the U.S. to Cuba to be introduced, a measure the bishops support.

"We see it only as a first step," he said. "We believe more engagement with Cuba is the way to improve human rights both within Cuba and to improve the situation of the people and the freedom of the church." [Catholic News Service, Measures promoting human dignity top concern for Catholic advocates, 2/6/2009]

Meanwhile, the travel industry is salivating over the possibilities, and Hawaii needs to watch out. With occupancy drastically down, opening Cuba, an Obama campaign promise, will further cut into travel to Hawaii.

I've written before about the implications for Hawaii of post-Castro Cuba normalizing relations with the United States. In fact, Cuba can become the new Hawaii. It's got great beaches, reasonably priced hotels, and you can bet the Cubans will roll out the red carpet for new American visitors. Hawaii could become just a cliché. Heck, they could do hula on the beaches in Cuba if they wanted to, just to emphasize the point.

The American travel industry is just beginning to salivate over the possibilities.

Makaala Hawaii Tourism Industry!!