

# PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

## **U.S. Supreme Court Asked to Stop Hawaii's Race Based Voter Registration and Elections** *Public Interest Legal Foundation Seeks Emergency Action*

(Alexandria, VA) – November 24. A publicly funded election is currently taking place in Hawaii to determine leadership in a nativist Hawaiian political entity. Voting is limited to only one race. The Supreme Court has been asked to halt the racially discriminatory election.

A group of private plaintiffs challenged the government-run voter registration roll as racially discriminatory. A federal district court rejected the challenge and is now letting the election proceed. Earlier this month, the Public Interest Legal Foundation joined Plaintiffs' emergency filings with the Ninth Circuit seeking to stop the racially discriminatory election and get full review of the registration process. The Ninth Circuit denied that relief and is allowing the election to continue. Plaintiffs have now asked the U.S. Supreme Court for emergency relief. Once again, the Public Interest Legal Foundation joins this important effort.

The [brief](#), seeking emergency action filed on behalf of the American Civil Rights Union, tells the Court that, for a second time, Hawaii is conducting a racially exclusionary election. In a case called *Rice v. Cayetano*, a similar election took place before the courts had sufficient time to review the law. Once the case reached the Supreme Court, it annihilated Hawaii's justifications for having racially exclusive rolls and elections and declared that such ancestry tests violated the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution. But because the election had already taken place, it was too late for full review.

Now the Supreme Court has a chance to ensure that Hawaii does not get away with an unconstitutional voter registration test a second time.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear that racial tests for voter registration cannot stand," said J. Christian Adams, President of PILF. "The right to register to vote on a government-run registration roll without passing an ancestry test is fundamental. Hawaii evaded full review of once before and we cannot let it happen again."

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm dedicated to election integrity. PILF exists to assist states and other in aiding the cause of election integrity and fighting against lawlessness in American elections. Drawing on numerous experts in the field, PILF protects the right to vote and preserves the Constitutional framework of American elections.

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Court filings can be found here: <http://publicinterestlegal.org/cases/akina-v-hawaii/>  
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