

INSIGHT

Road to ratification begins with voters

By Christine Donnelly

POSTED: 1:30 a.m. HST, July 5, 2015



CINDY ELLEN RUSSELL / CRUSSELL@STARADVERTISER.COM

Members of the Na'i Aupuni board, from left to right: Kealoha Ballesteros, secretary/treasurer; Gerry Miyamoto; Pauline Namu'o, vice president; J. Kuhio Asam, president; and Selena Lehua Schuelke. Na'i Aupuni, is the new independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for creating a process for Native Hawaiians to achieve self-determination.

Here is the tentative timeline for the election of delegates, the convening of the 'aha and the possible ratification vote of whatever documents are drafted at the 'aha. Dates are subject to change, depending on when the Native Hawaiian voter roll is certified.

» Late July or early August: Notices sent to certified voters explaining the apportionment of delegates, how to file as a delegate candidate and the voting process. Based on a pro rata of voters now registered, Oahu will have 20 delegates, Hawaii island seven, Maui three, Kauai two, Molokai/Lanai one and seven will come from outside Hawaii.

» Late July or early August: Application available for delegate candidates.

» Mid-September: Deadline to file as a delegate candidate.

» End of September: List of qualified delegate candidates announced.

- » Mid-October: Voter registration closes.
- » Early November: Voting begins.
- » Early December: Voting ends.
- » Day after voting ends: Election results announced publicly.
- » Between February and April 2016: 'Aha held on Oahu over the course of eight consecutive weeks (40 work days, Monday through Friday).
- » Two months after 'aha concludes: If delegates recommend a form of Hawaiian government, a referendum will be held among all certified Native Hawaiian voters.

For updates and more information, see www.naiaupuni.org.