

Māori Geothermal Workshop

Indigenous Geothermal People's Declaration

Aroha Campbell & Mason Jackson 10 August 2026

Introduction

The Indigenous Geothermal People's Declaration

How did it come about?

What is its purpose?

What does it say?

How has it been received and used?

What's next with it?

GRC

A stylized graphic of a mountain range on the right side of the image. The mountains are composed of several geometric shapes: a large blue triangle with white clouds at the top, a smaller white triangle to its right, a green forested area in the middle, a tan-colored base, and a small blue triangle at the bottom right. The background is a dark, textured blue with a faint, repeating pattern of the Hawaiian Islands.

GEOHERMAL RISING CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 27-30, 2024

HILTON WAIKOLOA VILLAGE | WAIKOLOA, HI



GEOTHERMAL RISING

Indigenous Geothermal Symposium

Indigenous Peoples Attendance

Māori representation was strong

Hawaiian representation also strong

First Nation Alaskans – Several tribes represented

Native American – Several tribes represented

Large Taiwan delegation (with interpreter)



What's the intent?



To provide a communication platform for indigenous geothermal peoples.

To convey priority messages from the “collective” indigenous geothermal peoples to the wider geothermal industry.

- **Indigenous Geothermal People's Declaration**

Indigenous Geothermal Peoples' Priorities	Our Calls to the Wider Geothermal Community	
1. Indigenous peoples' rights and sovereignty over their lands and natural resources	• To recognize, respect, guarantee and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other internationally recognized rights, including in the context of renewable energy. • To recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights holders, owners and decision-makers rather than mere stakeholders in the development of geothermal projects.	
2. Communication and Engagement	• To make the commitment to undertake meaningful and transparent consultation as early as possible, well before commencement of any project development phase, to gain, from the outset, a deeper understanding of what is important to Indigenous Peoples' and why. This is critical for developing mutual trust and relationship building. • To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' right to say "no" and to accept any non-negotiables they may have. • To strive to find consensus, establish integrated partnerships or other solutions that benefit both parties, and secure the free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous Peoples. • To provide adequate funding for all of the above.	
3. Community Benefits	• To reciprocate the benefits of geothermal development by implementing equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as co-ownership, co-management and co-equity models, that respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and contributions and result in early and ongoing internal capacity building, employment opportunities and the promotion of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination.	

Indigenous Geothermal Peoples' Priorities	Our Calls to the Wider Geothermal Community	
4. Cultural Knowledge	• To acknowledge and respect Indigenous Peoples' as stewards and guardians of their land and geothermal resources and provide tangible ways to enable them to carry out their duties in this respect. • To protect the cultural knowledge of Indigenous Peoples' and look for opportunities to incorporate it into developments so it can be celebrated and enhanced.	
5. Law and Policy	• To ensure that the development or review of any geothermal related laws, policies, procedures or decision-making criteria prioritises Indigenous Peoples' rights, social equity, cultural integrity, and environmental protection and, as far as possible, is agreed across the political spectrum to minimise future amendments and, in turn, maximise certainty for Indigenous Peoples. • To provide for, and fund, decision-making roles for Indigenous Peoples in respect of the development of geothermal related laws, policies or procedures and in respect of geothermal development project proposals.	
6. Values and Principles	• To support, promote and facilitate the development of a set of guiding values and principles on Indigenous Rights for businesses, developers and multinational enterprises in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).	

geothermal
thermal
les' Priorities

Our Call to the Wider Geothermal Community

geothermal
plus' rights and
sovereignty over
lands and
resources

communication
engagement

community

- To recognize, respect, guarantee and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other internationally recognized rights, including in the context of renewable energy.
- To recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights holders, owners and decision-makers rather than mere stakeholders in the development of geothermal projects.
- To make the commitment to undertake meaningful and transparent consultation as early as possible, well before commencement of any project development phase, to gain, from the outset, a deeper understanding of what is important to Indigenous Peoples' and why. This is critical for developing mutual trust and relationship building.
- To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' right to say "no" and to accept any non-negotiables they may have.
- To strive to find consensus, establish integrated partnerships or other solutions that benefit both parties, and secure the free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous Peoples.
- To provide adequate funding for all of the above.
- To reciprocate the benefits of geothermal development by implementing equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as co-ownership, co-management and co-equity models, that respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and contributions and result in early and ongoing internal capacity building, employment opportunities and the promotion of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination.



Subsequent Activities

- 2025 GRC Declaration Review – No Change
- 2026 WGC Declaration Review – No Change
- NTGA - SLB example
- Taiwan – driver of the bus concept
- Other countries struggling to get the declaration noticed

Next steps

- Promote more organisations to adopt the declaration
- Involve more indigenous peoples (e.g. Indonesia, Philippines)
- Integrate the Indigenous Geothermal Symposium into mainstream GRC and WGC programmes
- Māori centric version of the declaration?

Thank you