

# COURT DECISION ON HAWAII STIRS GEORGIST RESPONSE

(Letter in The New York Times, Monday, June 18, 1984.

"To the Editor:

It was a bold step the Supreme Court took to uphold the right of the State of Hawaii to use eminent domain to buy the rented-out land of certain large estate -- a bold step but justified.

"When 72 landowners hold 92 percent of all the privately-held acreage in the state, the injustice is too palpable to overlook. Shouldn't we all have equal access to the resources of nature?

"But we in the other 49 states are not much better off: three percent of the population owns 95 percent of the privately held land acreage in the country (according to a 1978 Department of Agriculture study). We need land reform too....

"There is one bona fide way for Hawaii to accomplish its goals, at no extra public cost: the state should gradually increase the tax on land values, while decreasing the tax on buildings and wages. The result will be that landowners will pay more for the governmental services that make their rents and leases so valuable. The other states should do likewise.

Steven Cord  
Indiana, Pa., June 1, 1984"

---

Henry George School of Social Science  
5 East 44 Street  
New York, NY 10017

Address correction requested

|                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Non-Profit Org<br>U.S. Postage<br>PAID<br>New York, N.Y.<br>Permit No 7759 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|