

# News release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Southcentral Foundation Director of Tribal Relations & Traditional Healing receives historic honor in Hawai'i**

**(Anchorage, AK) – Feb. 28, 2013** – On Jan. 19, Southcentral Foundation Director of Tribal Relations and Traditional Healing Dr. Ted Mala was inducted into the Moko O Kapuaiwa Chapter of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I as an Honorary Ali'i (chief). This was the first time an Alaska Native person, or any Alaskan, has been honored in this way.

The Royal Order of Kamehameha I was established April 11, 1865, by King Kamehameha V Lot Kapuaiwa in honor of his grandfather, King Kamehameha the great, as sovereign over the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The mandate was that the Order infuse the "spirit of patriotism and loyalty" to the kingdom.

The purpose of the [Royal Order of Kamehameha I](#), as it is known today, is to:

- Unite in fraternal and benevolent work, men of Hawaiian descent, of good moral character, of sound bodily health
- Cultivate the cardinal principles of friendship, charity and benevolence
- Aid widows and orphans
- Improve the social and moral conditions of its members
- Provide scholarship assistance
- Preserve and perpetuate the ancient culture, customs, and traditions of Hawai'i, uplift the Hawaiian people
- Infuse the spirit of patriotism, loyalty, helpfulness and kindness among its members
- Advance the interest of its members in every rightful cause
- Encourage and develop leadership

In addition to their stated purpose, the Royal Order of Kamehameha I advocates on behalf of Native Hawaiians and is often consulted with by the U.S. government, the State of Hawai'i and various Hawaiian county governments.

When members are inducted into the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, they are presented with an *Ahu'ula*, or cape consistent with their rank. The gold cape represents that of the 6<sup>th</sup> Degree of Ali'i. When members are wearing this regalia, they must treat the garment with utmost respect and adhere to strict rules since it is a symbol of the noble order.

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## **Southcentral Foundation**

Established in 1982, Southcentral Foundation's (SCF) mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI), SCF has grown in its 30 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization with more than 1,500 employees and 65 health care programs and services. SCF is a recipient of the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award – now one of 15 health care organizations in the nation to ever receive this prestigious recognition.