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## **Background Summary**

Hawaii used to be its own country. At that time, the Hawaiian Islands were ruled by a queen. Then in 1893, the United States took over Hawaii by force. The native Hawaiians lost their lands.

The US government has since given the native Hawaiians some of their lands back. But the native Hawaiians still don't get to decide what happens to their lands. This is why the Hawaiian sovereignty movement began.

Hawaiian sovereignty means different things to different people. Some want Hawaii to be its own country again. They want to leave the United States. Others just want native Hawaiians to decide what happens to the lands, but they want to remain a part of the US.

# 1

## I'll Hate It!

'And *then* guess what my dad said?!' Kimo hurled the ball hard in anger. José trapped it in his glove.

'What?' José asked. He wound up. He threw the baseball back to Kimo.

## KIMO AND THE SECRET WAVES

The sun was hot on Kimo's back. But he was hot enough already. His anger boiled up inside him. Dust rose in clouds from the baseball diamond. The other boys on the team were warming up too.

'Then he said he was sending me away for the holidays!' Kimo exploded.

'No way, man', José said. He stopped throwing. He looked at Kimo. 'You've gotta be kidding'.

'I wish I were', Kimo muttered.

'What's the team going to do without you? What about summer league? Where is he sending you? Why is he doing this?' José's questions tumbled out all at once.

Kimo threw the ball back to José. He took a deep breath. 'Well, with summer coming, I'll be on my own a lot. Dad's afraid I'll get into trouble'.

'What's he mean by trouble? Hey, man, he doesn't think you'd join a gang, does he?' José asked. He frowned. 'We all know better than that'.

'That's not what he meant', Kimo said. He stopped. Then he looked down at the ground. 'It's—it's because of what happened to my mum—and my little—sister'.

José scuffed his shoe in the dirt. He didn't say anything.

'He says the *barrio* isn't like it used to be. It's different now. If someone like my mum can be shot by accident just driving down the street...' Kimo swallowed hard. 'Close to our house. It's too dangerous'.

'He's right', José said slowly. 'We always gotta be