The Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) oversees the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP’s) Native American initiatives. ONAA staff also works closely with the ACHP’s tribal/Native Hawaiian member to address critical issues brought to the ACHP by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs), and intertribal organizations.

The program’s three primary responsibilities are to do the following:

- Advise the ACHP chairman, members, executive director, and staff on policy matters and historic preservation issues affecting Indian tribes and NHOs;
- Provide technical assistance and outreach regarding tribal and NHO consultation in the Section 106 review process; and,
- Participate in interagency initiatives focused on Native American issues.

WHAT DOES ONAA DO?

Supports ACHP policy development

With staff support from ONAA, the ACHP has undertaken several major policy initiatives including the adoption of:

- Plan to Support the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP’s Relationships with Indian tribes
- Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP’s Interaction with Native Hawaiian organizations
- Policy Statement Regarding Federal Relationships with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

- The ACHP’s statement on its Trust Responsibility

Assistance to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations

ONAA staff is always available via telephone or e-mail to provide assistance to Indian tribes and NHOs regarding Section 106 consultation. ONAA serves as the gateway for tribal staff and NHO members to other ACHP offices.

Assistance to federal agencies

ONAA staff is available to answer basic questions about consultation with Indian tribes or NHOs and to work with the ACHP’s Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP) on reviews of projects and programs with tribal or Native Hawaiian interest.

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The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of the nation’s diverse historic resources and advises the President and the Congress on national historic preservation policy.
Project and program review

ONAA staff participates in Section 106 reviews with OFAP staff when there are issues of concern to Indian tribes or NHOs.

Interagency initiatives

The ACHP is a member of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, created by Executive Order 13647 in 2013. While the chairman represents the ACHP on the Council, ONAA represents the ACHP on all staff-level committees.

ONAA represents the ACHP on other interagency initiatives including the Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding, executed in 2012 by the Departments of the Interior, Defense, Agriculture, and Energy, and the ACHP.

ONAA also serves on the Native Hawaiian Federal Interagency Working Group along with the Departments of Defense and the Interior. The working group provides assistance to federal agencies regarding consultation with NHOs.

Guidance and training

ONAA staff regularly develops general guidance regarding consultation with Indian tribes or NHOs as well as targeted, issue-specific guidance. All such information is available on the ACHP’s Web site at www.achp.gov/nap.html. Key guidance includes the following: “Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Section 106 Process,” “Consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations in the Section 106 Review Process,” and “Recommendations for Improving Tribal-Federal Consultation.” These guides are intended to assist federal agencies in consulting with Indian tribes or NHOs but are useful to all Section 106 participants.

For more information and additional guidance, please visit:

WWW.ACHP.GOV/NAP.HTML