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Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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HEARINGS ON HAWAII NATIVE CLAIMS BILL

JUNE 12, 1975

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The United States Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs today notified Senator Daniel K. Inouye of its plans to hold hearings on the Hawaii native claims bill in Hilo on June 30, 1975, and in Honolulu, on the following day.

Senator J. Bennett Johnson, Jr., (D-La.), will chair the hearings. Senators Inouye and Hiram Fong have been invited to attend.

The Hilo hearing will commence at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 1975 at the Keaukaha Hawaiian Village Luau House on Kalaniana'ola Avenue. The Honolulu hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. on July 1, 1975 and is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Kamehameha School for Girls Auditorium.

The hearings stem from last year's successful effort by Senator Inouye, at the behest of the Aboriginal Lands of Hawaiian Ancestry (ALOHA) organization, to persuade Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Interior Committee to hold hearings on the Hawaiian native claims as a first step in drafting legislation.

Senator Inouye expressed his pleasure that the Interior Committee which twice had to cancel previously announced hearings due to changes in the Senate's work schedule had maintained its commitment to the Hawaiian people and an active interest in their aboriginal claims.

news from

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NEWS RELEASE FROM SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

Release Date: June 12, 1975

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Andrew Chang, Director of the Department of Social Services and Housing in Honolulu will also attend the meeting to present detailed arguments for the State. Mr. Chang has claimed that Hawaii was sincerely interested in implementing EPSDT and was complying "with the spirit and intent of the law," and that the Federal Government is not being "reasonable" in assessing the fine.

Senator Hiram Fong, and Representatives Patsy Mink and Spark Matsunaga have also expressed an interest in being present. It is still uncertain whether or not Bob Millar, Director of Medicaid in Honolulu will attend.

Hawaii was one of seven states who were affected by the first-ever HEW penalties last week. There is a possibility Hawaii will coordinate its protest with a delegation from New Mexico including Richard W. Heim, Executive Director of their Department of Health and Social Services and the New Mexico Congressional delegation.

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implement ~~the~~ the EPSDT
program*

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news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUYE

topic:

date:

release date: JUNE 18, 1975

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), in a letter to Richard Wiley, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, today expressed his long-standing concern over the apparent inaction by carriers providing communications services between Hawaii, the United States Mainland, Alaska and Puerto Rico in meeting the requirements set forth by the Commission in its Second Report and Order in the Matter of Establishment of Domestic Communications-Satellite Facilities by Non-Governmental Entities as adopted on June 16, 1972. "I believe," the Senator wrote, "that we have been patient long enough."

Supporting the position of Governor George Ariyoshi, Senator Inouye called for the elimination of "existent discrimination in the provision of all telecommunications services, including telephone, telegraph message, telex, television, data and private line leased circuits as well as other specialized services. There is no justification or excuse," he observed, "for the present disparity in telecommunication rates." Present Hawaii-Mainland telephone rates can be over 100 percent higher than current rates between Mainland states over the same distance.

Established Commission policy, and the Commission's 1972 decision to "integrate Hawaii into the uniform mileage rate pattern which applies to contiguous States" has been disregarded at the expense of all Hawaiians. The Senator quoted a 1972 Commission Report which concluded that with the introduction of satellite technology "distance should dramatically diminish as an excuse or justification of the historic high-rate treatment that has been accorded to these Hawaiian-Mainland services."

Senator Inouye requested that corrective action on the rate and service inequities be accelerated. Furthermore, Senator Inouye posed several questions to Chairman Wiley asking why:

- 1) "U.S. Postal Service Mailgram electronic mail is not available to Hawaii which is the only state excluded from this service?"
- 2) "Both inward and outward interstate Wide Area Telecommunications Service is denied to the citizens of Hawaii?"
- 3) "Access is denied to citizens of Hawaii to toll free telephone numbers of Western Union Telegraph Company's telephone bureaus for the filing of messages, mailgrams, etc., by voice or through coupled facsimile, communicating typewriters and time-sharing terminals?"

The Senator, in his letter, reiterated his desire to provide Hawaii with equitable efficient communications services, and to correct the existent service and rate disparities. Nothing less than equal costs for equal services is consistent with the "spirit if not the letter of the Admission Act of the 86th Congress providing for the admission of Hawaii into the Union on an equal footing with other States in all respects whatever."

news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUE

topic:

date:

release date: JUNE 18, 1975

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) today introduced a bill designed to make minimum prison sentences mandatory for those persons convicted of committing a felony with the use or threatened use of a gun or other dangerous weapons.

In his remarks before the Senate, Senator Inouye stressed "The ever-increasing cycle and scale of violence in our country simply cannot be allowed to continue. I feel compelled to personally speak out against the failure of our laws -- and our citizens -- to sustain a society where 'domestic tranquility' is insured and where everyone can safely pursue their life's work and goals. America's crime rate soared 17 percent in 1974 -- the largest jump in 14 years and almost 3 times the 6 percent 1973 rate."

Aimed primarily at criminals who use handguns during the commission of crimes, this legislation would impose an extra five-year prison term which may not run concurrent to any other imposed sentence. Judges would be denied the option of waiving this sentence. Its imposition would be mandatory once a conviction had been obtained.

Senator Inouye stressed, "This is not a gun legislation. This is a gunman legislation. Only potential or actual criminals need fear its provisions. The punishment imposed is certain and prolonged. Those who derive their power over persons and property by use of a gun or other weapon are soon to learn that they have no such right to threaten or interfere with the rights and freedoms of others. The line must be drawn clearly. The punishment for violent crime must be certain and severe. People living in fear of their own personal safety cannot hope to exercise basic democratic freedoms. And without the unrestrained exercise of democratic freedoms, our system of government cannot long endure."

news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUYE

topic:

date: June 23, 1975

release date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that the hearings scheduled to be held in Hawaii on June 30 and July 1 by the Senate Interior Committee on the Hawaii Native Claims bill have been postponed on the request of representatives of the Native Hawaiian organizations.

Charles Maxwell, President of the ALOHA Association, at a meeting with Senator Inouye in Honolulu on Friday evening, June 20th, asked the Senator to formally request that the Senate Interior Committee reschedule its hearings for later in the year. The rescheduling is intended to allow the supporters of federal reparation of Hawaiian native claims to prepare more detailed information for presentation to the Committee.

Senator Inouye related the ALOHA request in Washington today to Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, and Senator Bennett Johnston, who was to chair the Hawaii hearings. Senators Jackson and Johnston agreed to the request and to reschedule the hearings later in the present session of Congress.

news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUE

topic:

date: JUNE 24, 1975

release date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) today introduced legislation (S. 2003) to authorize funding for the United States Travel Service to promote international tourism to and domestic tourism within the United States.

S. 2003 which was cosponsored by Senators Magnuson, Pastore, Cannon, Moss, Baker, Goldwater, Griffin and Javits, immediately passed the Senate unanimously.

The legislation authorizes the following funding levels for the Travel Service which is the agency of government charged with the promotion of tourism:

- (a) International Tourism Promotion: FY '77 -- \$25 million; FY '78 -- \$30 million; FY '79 -- \$30 million.
- (b) Domestic Tourism Promotion: FY '76 -- \$2.5 million; FY '77 -- \$2.5 million; FY '78 -- \$2.5 million.

The bill also expressly states that any promotional activities the Travel Service undertakes must be in the public interest, and not compete with activities of a state, city, or private agency.

Senator Inouye said that for all practical purposes S. 2003 is the same bill as H. R. 5357, which passed the House by a vote of 287-132 on May 13, 1975, and the Senate unanimously two days later.

"Unfortunately," he added, "because of technical and administrative misunderstandings the President felt it necessary to veto H. R. 5357 on May 28, 1975.

"Since then the Congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle have worked with the Administration to correct those misunderstandings.

"I am happy to report that S. 2003 represents an agreement which is acceptable to the Congressional leadership and the President," Senator Inouye added.

"I would hope that as a government we have now begun to recognize what an essential industry tourism is," Senator Inouye concluded.