

Chronological: University of Hawaii, "A Celebration of Firsts", 2001-05-31

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
“A CELEBRATION OF FIRSTS”
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CAMPUS
MAY 31, 2001**

VIDEO MESSAGE

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

I’m sorry that I cannot join you at this historic event -- a true “first” for the State of Hawaii. As you know, my colleagues in the Senate and I are in the midst of working on the federal budget, and I am pleased to say that there appears to be bipartisan support for renewing our nation’s commitment to education.

I want to thank you for *your* commitment to education, specifically, your support of my alma mater, the University of Hawaii. Your contributions to the University’s Campaign for Hawaii will help UH prepare for its certain leadership role in the Pacific region and the new economy.

Investing in the University of Hawaii pays dividends across the broadest of spectrums. Our University is engaged in pursuits as diverse as tropical agriculture, volcanology, the Hawaiian language, culinary arts, and Asian theater. These pursuits are representative of our community and our environment.

The University’s impact is felt from the depths of the sea to the farthest reaches of space. The University of Hawaii is one of our nation’s unique treasures, a place where cultures blend and minds are set free. Your support is making a difference in the lives of the faculty and students who are preparing our society for the challenges we will face in the future.

**On behalf of them, and the entire State of Hawaii, I send you my deepest gratitude.
Aloha.**

**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF SEATTLE
ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' CONFERENCE
COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT AWARD**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
MAY 24, 2001**

VIDEO MESSAGE

Aloha. I wish to extend my personal greetings and warmest congratulations to the recipients of the Federal Home Loan Bank's Community ADVANCEment Award:

American Savings Bank, Bank of America, Bank of Hawaii, Central Pacific Bank, City Bank, Finance Factors Limited, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii Federal Credit Union, Hawaii National Bank, HomeStreet Bank, Honolulu City and County Federal Credit Union, and Territorial Savings and Loan Association.

Your efforts to advance affordable housing for Native Hawaiians have distinguished you from the hundreds of communities in the Seattle Bank's eight-state region.

I commend and thank Hawaii's financial institutions being honored today. For many residents in Hawaii, especially for Native Hawaiians, the American dream of owning a home is only that -- a dream. High housing costs, limited availability of land, and, until recently, restricted federal funding on Hawaiian home lands, have contributed to a housing crisis in Hawaii.

Thousands of families and individuals have access to affordable housing as a result of your collaborative efforts. I thank you for your commitment to combat homelessness and provide feasible homeownership options to Hawaii's citizens, particularly to low-income residents and Native Hawaiians. You know that the value of your investment in affordable housing is measured not by the balance sheet, but by the strength of Hawaii's communities.

I applaud the Federal Home Loan Bank for investing millions each year into affordable housing and for making Native Hawaiian projects a priority in your grant selection process. I also wish to express my appreciation to the non-profits who continue to be an inspiration and the driving force behind many of the Native Hawaiian projects.

Again, my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Hawaii recipients of the Community ADVANCEment Award.