

Speeches and messages: 1963-1964: Space age in Hawaii

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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THE FOLLOWING WAS MAILED ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE TUESDAY, AUGUST 6,
BY SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE:

6 August 1963

SPACE AGE IN HAWAII
by Hon. Daniel K. Inouye

Mr. President:

As the newest State in our great nation, Hawaii is considered by most Americans as the land that furnishes pineapples for their tables, a vacation spot to get away from the humdrum of their daily routine or the site of one of our mightiest military bases, Pearl Harbor.

The American people conceive of Hawaii as a land of lush vegetations, of brown-skinned men and women riding surfboards off sandy beaches on the rolling swells of the Pacific, of blue skies and warm tropical winds.

Rarely, however, is Hawaii's place in American industrial life, and the State's contribution to the country's space efforts considered, and it is with some pride that I point today to our new and growing aerospace industry.

The strategic location of the Hawaiian Islands in the geographic center of the vast Pacific Missile Range has opened up new scientific horizons for the Hawaiian people. Although numerous island companies, such as Hawaiian Telephone Company with its interest in Satellite communications and Hawaiian Electric's continuing concern with new power sources show great promise in the exploitation of space and science, today's major

commercial link with the nation's multi-billion dollar aerospace business is Kentron Hawaii, Limited, a State of Hawaii chartered company with close family ties to Ling-Temco-Vought of Dallas, Texas, one of the acknowledged leaders in the nation's aerospace industry.

Kentron has succeeded in establishing a Hawaiian Company which combines years of technical experience of its Dallas parent Chance Vought, with the rapidly expanding scientific potential of the Islands' people. In cooperation with local technical schools and the University of Hawaii, this organization has within the short span of two years been able to transform a small electronics repair facility into a multi-million dollar aerospace company employing some 70% local island people and bringing to the mid Pacific the identical calibre of engineering services available anywhere in the nation.

And, I am proud to point out that this Hawaiian organization plays an important and diverse role in space operations in the Pacific. As a prime technical contractor to the U. S. Navy administered Pacific Missile Range, Kentron operates and maintains the all important National Aeronautics and Space Administration Tracking Station at Kokee Park on the island of Kauai. It was Astronaut Scott Carpenter who described the Kokee Station after the recent Gordon Cooper flight, "The best group in the best station of them all."

On this garden island of Kauai, the company also operates for the U. S. Navy its complicated fleet training center at Barking Sands. Moving westward to the Kwajalein Atoll, in mid Pacific, Kentron is the technical contractor for the Pacific Missile Range facilities in support of the Army-sponsored Nike Zeus anti-missile program. These activities include the technical communication services, the largest and most modern film processing center in the Pacific, a tracking control and instrumentation complex which extends to the outer islands of Ennylabegan, Gugeegue and Roi-Namur. In Honolulu the company maintains the only commercial primary type standards laboratory in the entire Pacific with precision directly traceable to the National Bureau of Standards. This facility serves the various national and state government agencies and the mid Pacific business community, including the calibration and repair of the vast complex of precise instrumentation required in the Pacific Missile Range.

Our new state is tuning in on this adolescent industry. The business planners are acutely aware of the necessity of supplementing the traditional economies of agriculture and tourism with more stable growth enterprises. The space electronics field attracts the calibre of new residents that we desire. New emphasis is being placed on science and engineering in our educational institutions. In coordination with such companies as Hawaiian Telephone, Hawaiian Electric, Kaiser Industries, and Kentron, the island government is exploring the possibility of

establishment of a research and development center which will exploit the advantages of Hawaii's geography, and natural environment.

In short, the people of Hawaii are actively participating in our nation's space and scientific activities and look to the future with confidence that their State will play an ever increasing role. I salute the new technically oriented youth of Hawaii and the spirit of aggressive cooperation with which Kentron Hawaii, Limited, has blended the high calibre of technical services supplied to the U. S. Government and industry for some forty years by the Chance Vought Corp. with the inherent capabilities of our Island people. Together they offer the nation a new technical capability in the Pacific which holds great promise for the future economic development of the State of Hawaii.