

# Speech: "Hawai'i has too many people."

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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Hawaii has too many people. The state is already straining at the seams of its social and economic fabric. The first symptoms of this overcrowding are beginning to get painful. Organized<sup>2/</sup> crime is moving in. Rape and wayside robberies are on the rise. Dope addiction is evident in schools as urban ~~class~~ class<sup>4</sup> get bigger. The air no longer smells clean in the towns. Noise from ~~roads~~ cars, trucks and planes ~~is a daily assault on the ear.~~ Privacy is being eroded -- and withit the gentle spirit of Hawaiians that distinguishes them from the rest.

It has been estimated ~~that~~ that in 22 years, there will be 1.25 million people living in the islands, <sup>with the majority in the cities.</sup> On ~~the~~ top of that, there will be another 100,000 ~~visit~~ visitors ~~in~~ competing for the same resources <sup>in</sup> any given day. This may not seem like an unmanageable figure in these days of megacities with ~~populations~~ populations of 10 million and more. But, as anyone who has been to Hong Kong will testify, the crush of humanity in this kind of situation takes its toll. The consequences ~~are inevitable~~ are inevitable ~~and~~ as they will be subtle. And they will enroach on the very foundations of our society.

The delivery systems will begin to malfunction, whatever the input in resources and revenue. Overloaded courts and overstretched policemen will mete out justice in approximation. Social service <sup>7</sup>s will be open to abuse on both sides ~~and~~ and will consume a ~~growing~~ <sup>growing</sup> share of state revenues.



The urban  ~~sprawl~~ sprawl could be overcome by opting for taller buildings even  ~~if~~ if it means that people will be looking into each others' bedrooms. But there is no substitute for fresh water for our farms, factories and homes. Already there is some talk that unless new sources of water are found,  ~~the~~ the  ~~cost~~ <sup>the</sup> cost of water will go up and that would spell disaster for  ~~the~~ sugar plantations.  ~~The~~ The signs are already in evidence. Land owners and the state government  ~~are~~ are at odds over conflicting interpretations of water rights.  ~~The~~

The solution is <sup>clearly legal technical</sup>  ~~not~~ the  ~~solution~~ <sup>is</sup> If Hawaii is not to be  ~~mired~~ mired in the web of ever-growing demand for services and declining revenues, there has to be  ~~a~~ radical re-thinking of our  ~~means~~ ways and of our means. At least one aspect of the solution lies in rapidly stabilizing the the population at present levels. In-migration from the mainland is a constitutional right and the flood of people has been sustained as it has been alarming. Hawaii's natural  ~~beauty~~ beauty and and the mildness of its climate has worked against in other ways. The state absorbs more immigrants than  ~~any~~ any other locality in the  ~~the~~ United States. This  ~~volatile~~ volatile mix.

<sup>people</sup> Even as local  ~~people~~ <sup>about these trends</sup> express suggest grave reservations,  ~~the~~ The Select Committee on Population has scheduled hearing on the subject. Over the next few weeks, the consequences of domestic population change will be studied in depth.

The hearings will focus on on the need for governments to anticipate population change and to develop necessary policy responses. ~~As~~ As a ~~member~~ member of this committee, I have attempted to ~~draw~~ direct attention to the problems of population redistribution. ~~There are many areas~~

~~That~~ That growing areas, such as Hawaii, face rapidly increasing demand for social services and rising consumption of natural resources, is recognised readily enough. But should this be allowed to continue? Should the Federal aid to cope with <sup>the</sup> exploding population be come a permanent feature of life in the islands? In effect, does that not mean that we are throwing ourselves at the mercy ~~of~~ of Washington, <sup>Should we then</sup> and adjust to a life ~~of~~ <sup>on</sup> welfare?

And if we opt for controlled growth, what administrative mechanism exists to keep things on track? ~~On~~ On what ~~data~~ <sup>base</sup> data do we ~~make~~ our judgments? I do not pretend to have all the answers. Indeed, this is my reason for this letter. I hope that as it stirs ~~the~~ controversy, there will be ~~ideas~~ ideas thrown up that will suggest new ways to ~~preserve~~ preserve ~~the~~ the best in our state. ~~Ultimately~~ I have faith in Hawaii.