

Chronological: Dedication of New Kaumalapau Breakwater, Kauai

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Chronological, Box SP14, Folder 74
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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



DEDICATION OF NEW KAUMALAPAU BREAKWATER

Lanai

Saturday, July 7, 2007

Kaumalapau Harbor is important to the people of Lanai. It provides a critical link to Maui and Honolulu for food, fuel, and furnishings. In 1992, the breakwater was severely damaged by Hurricane Iniki as it left a path of devastation throughout the Hawaiian islands.

Soon after Iniki struck Lanai, I received a call from my dear friend, Councilman Goro Hokoma, requesting my assistance. As they say, the rest is history. The groundbreaking ceremony occurred 12 years later, in August of 2004. And, 35 months later, we stand before the people of Lanai, with this task completed.

Working together, we convinced the federal government to invest \$25.4 million which was matched by State funds and land in the amount of \$2.8 million. The total government investment is \$28.2 million. I would venture to say that this is the largest federal public works project on the Island of Lanai.

We were able to reach this stage because of the hard work of many. However, I would like to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the Army Corps of Engineers. They are most deserving of our accolades and praise.

My only regret is that my dear friend, Goro Hokama, is not here with us to see the final product of the work he began more than a decade ago. If it weren't for Goro, this project would have remained a distant dream.

We are all fortunate that Goro had an outstanding son, Riki, who has been a steady and moving force to keep all parties on track. Riki, your father would have been so very proud of you.

And, I hope that our State Legislature, in its wisdom, will give serious consideration to officially naming the breakwater & harbor - "Hokama Harbor" in honor of Goro's lifetime of service to the people of Lanai.

Finnell, Virginia (Inouye)

From: MacDonald, Beverly (Inouye)
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 9:21 AM
To: Wong, Gloria (Inouye); Finnell, Virginia (Inouye)
Subject: FW: speech from this trip
Attachments: 07-0707 Kaumalapua harbor Lanai breakwater dedication.wpd

FYI

From: Daly, Sara (Inouye)
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2007 9:41 PM
To: MacDonald, Beverly (Inouye); Yuen, Mike (Inouye); Okubo, Jinny (Inouye)
Subject: speech from this trip

Here is a copy of DKI's speech from this trip. I will also put it in the f drive

SATURDAY - JULY 7

**10:30 AM DEDICATION OF NEW KAUMALAPAU BREAKWATER
-AT KAUMALAPAU HARBOR**

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: MARIE/AARON/MILTON

DATE: JUNE 28, 2007

RE: VISIT TO LANAI, SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2007

You will be visiting Lanai to participate in the dedication ceremony for the Kaunalapau Harbor Breakwater Project. Your flight to Lanai may include Senator and Millie Akaka, General Robert Lee and his wife, and Mr. Eugene Ban (Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division).

Upon your arrival on Lanai at 9:25 a.m., you will proceed to the airport conference room for a briefing by Castle & Cooke (C & C) on their proposed wind and solar photovoltaic farms. The representatives from C & C are David Murdock, Tim Hill, Executive Vice President, and Lori Lum, Public Affairs Director for Watanabe Ing & Komeiji.

Castle & Cooke recently announced they are considering a \$750 million wind farm (June 6th Honolulu Advertiser article attached). The proposed wind farm would generate up to 400 megawatts of power (1 megawatt provides electricity to approximately 1000 homes), which is much more electricity than Lanai needs. If feasible, they would consider sending surplus electricity to Oahu via undersea cables. Because wind energy provides intermittent power (non-firm), and it is not reliable, this is not the type of energy source Hawaiian Electric Company is aggressively pursuing. Additionally, it will be interesting to see the cost-benefit analysis on the underwater cables, i.e., how much through-put will be required to make it a worthwhile investment.

The \$13 - 18 million solar photovoltaic farm will be built on a 10-acre site on south Lanai. The solar farm will produce 1.5 megawatts of electricity, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. This is a more feasible project as the power generated would be utilized on the island.

At the conclusion of your staff's energy trip in April, it became clear that the number one issue for non-firm energy sources, like wind and solar, is storage

capacity to offset the non-peak times. It may be best for Castle & Cooke to scale back its wind farm initiative, and refocus some of its investment into technologies to store the wind and solar energy. In fact, if you are successful in holding onto the \$1.25 million Renewable Energy Development Venture earmark in the Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill thru conference, this would likely be an area of focus.

After your meeting with Castle & Cooke (around 10:15 a.m.), Councilman Riki Hokama will drive you to Kaunalapau Harbor for the dedication ceremony which is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. Prior to the ceremony, you are scheduled to take pre-event photos with the K-Pau Kids and their families. The K-Pau Kids represent the initial proponents of the breakwater repair project, and will untie the ceremonial ribbon. A draft program is attached.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, there will be a 15-minute post-event group photo followed by our departure for Lanai City for an informal community celebration and lunch. Your flight departs Lanai at 2:35 p.m.

Background of the Kaunalapau Harbor Breakwater Project: The Kaunalapau Harbor Breakwater Project has been a very long time in coming. It has been 15 years since your involvement began. This project has successfully rebuilt a 320-foot breakwater that protects the harbor on the west coast of Lanai. It is a \$25.4 million federal investment and \$2.8 million in State funds for a total of just over \$28 million. Kaunalapau Harbor is the island's primary link for much of its supply needs. Rough seas and surge conditions have eroded the breakwater over the years, and made it hazardous for barge traffic entering and berthing in the harbor. The breakwater project has mitigated these adverse conditions.

Planning for the repairs was initiated in 1992, when the breakwater was severely damaged by Hurricane Iniki. Then Councilman Goro Hokama called upon you for your help. The breakwater was built in the 1920's but has been badly damaged by repeated storms, including Hurricane Iwa in 1982 and Iniki ten years later. You secured \$900,000 in Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994 to initiate pre-construction engineering and design, and environmental studies.

In 1997, the State and Lanai Company finally reached an agreement whereby the State would assume ownership of the Kaunalapau Harbor lands from Lanai Company. This was important in moving this project forward because projects within the Corps of Engineers (COE) jurisdiction must be publicly-owned. At that time, you also committed to earmarking the federal share for this project because it did not meet the COE cost-benefit ratio. There were not enough people on Lanai to justify the cost of fixing the harbor.

The harbor land was ultimately turned over to the State in 2000. Bickering between David Murdock and Governor Ben Cayetano held this project up for nearly a year. Then Maui Mayor Kimo Apana was very helpful in orchestrating the swap, interjecting the County between the State and C & C to get the deal done.

Construction was initiated with the groundbreaking ceremony which you attended in August 2004. It has taken approximately 35 months to complete.

Councilman Riki Hokama has been extremely supportive of this project and instrumental in keeping the State committed to doing its part, carrying on where his father left off. The COE recalls Councilman Goro Hokama bringing the matter to their attention in 1985. In many ways, the harbor should be called the "Hokama Harbor" in memory of your dear friend Goro for his lifetime of service to the island and people he loved.

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