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Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Jennifer Sabas – 541-2542

**SENATOR INOUE HAILS INCLUSION OF COMPENSATION FOR
FILIPINO VETERANS IN HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE
REPORT ON H.R. 1, THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, DC – With language included in the Conference Report for H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, World War II Filipino veterans are one significant step closer to securing a long-delayed victory. The authorization included in the Report will allow the release of previously appropriated funds, enabling one-time payments of \$15,000 to veterans who are U.S. citizens and \$9,000 to non-citizens. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the leading force behind the measure, issued the following statement:

“On February 5, 2009, I made my case to my Senate colleagues on behalf of Filipino World War II veterans. (See full floor statement below.) The provision included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which authorizes a one-time payment to eligible Filipino veterans who served honorably during World War II, is a matter of honor,” said Senator Inouye. “As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to have had an opportunity to shepherd this provision through the legislative process, and to finally recognize these brave men for their service to our country. The \$198 million for payments to eligible Filipino World War II veterans was previously appropriated under the 2009 Continuing Resolution. Following passage in the House and the Senate, and upon the President’s signature, Filipino veterans will have won a victory delayed too long.”

Floor Statement by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii)
World War II Filipino Veterans
February 5, 2009

Mr. President, in the presentation of the bill before us, the Senator from Arizona singled out one group—Filipino war veterans—and suggested that these were men from foreign countries and that we were providing funds for them. If I may, I would like to spend a few moments discussing this matter.

On January 26, 1941, the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, issued a military order through General MacArthur calling upon Filipinos to volunteer to serve in the Army, to serve in the Navy, to serve in the Air Force, because the President sensed, correctly, that there was much instability and much violence in Asia. He felt the time had come for the United States to be prepared for any eventuality. As a result of that call, 470,000 Filipinos stepped forward and volunteered to serve in the military, under the command of General MacArthur.

As we all know, on December 7, 1941, war came to our shores, to my State of Hawaii. Pearl Harbor was bombed, and then the forces of Japan began advancing toward the Philippines. The first major target was the Bataan Peninsula. The 14th Japanese Army surrounded the peninsula. That peninsula contained at that moment 80,000 troops. We all assumed that the 80,000 were American troops. No. About 18,000 were American troops; the rest were Filipinos. Yes, the majority of the troops in Bataan were Filipinos, but somehow, if you look at Hollywood on the Bataan death march, you hardly see a Filipino marching. Of the survivors of the Bataan, 15,000 were Americans, 60,000 were Filipinos. The march took a little over a month. They were not given medicine or water. By the time it ended, 54,000 survived. Very few Filipinos survived.

Then we had Corregidor. The same thing.

So in March 1942, the Congress of the United States --the Senate and the House—passed a measure thanking the Filipinos for their gallantry, for their heroism, and said: If you wish, you may become a citizen of the United States and get all the benefits of a U.S. veteran.

The war ended, and in February of 1946, this Congress passed a bill rescinding, repealing that Act of 1942. Believe it or not, it declared that the service the Filipinos had rendered as not active service. I don't know what it meant by that. It was not active service.

The Filipinos have been waiting all this time. We have had measure after measure presented. We did so in the proper fashion, and we got filibustered, we got ruled out, and everything else.

At this moment, out of the 470,000 who volunteered, 18,000 are still alive – 18,000. The average age is 90. At this moment, while I am speaking, hundreds lie in hospitals on their death beds. And I am certain, while I am speaking, some are dying. Two weeks from now, we will have 17,000 surviving.

I agree with the Senator from Arizona. This is not a stimulus proposal. It does not create jobs. But the honor of the United States is what is involved.

It is about time we close this dark chapter. I love America. I love serving America. I am proud of this country, but this is a black chapter. It has to be cleansed, and I hope my colleagues will join me in finally recognizing that these men served us well. They died for us. They got wounded for us. And they deserve recognition.

Incidentally, this bill doesn't contain a penny for the Filipinos. It recognizes them. And we will provide the money later.

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Lori Hamamoto 202-224-3934

INOUYE SEEKS FEDERAL STUDY TO DETERMINE IF HAWAII SITES WHERE JAPANESE AMERICANS WERE UNJUSTLY INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II QUALIFY AS HISTORIC PLACES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye – who during World War II fought alongside Nisei soldiers from the mainland whose families were unjustly incarcerated in mass detention camps simply because of their ancestry – today introduced a bill to have the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to determine if internment camp sites in Hawaii are eligible to be listed as historic sites under the National Park System.

“During World War II, over 1,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in at least eight locations on Hawaii,” said Senator Inouye. “In a report completed in 2007, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii documented these sites that include Honouliuli Gulch, Sand Island, and the U.S. Immigration Station on Oahu, the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Camp and Wailuku County Jail on Maui, and the Kalaheo Stockade and Waialua County Jail on Kauai. These camps also held approximately 100 local residents of German and Italian ancestry.

“Those detained included the leaders of the Japanese immigrant community in Hawaii, many of whom were taken from their homes and families in the hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The forced removal of these individuals began a nearly four-year odyssey to a series of camps in Hawaii and on the continental United States. Over 1,000 immediate family members of these men joined their husbands, fathers and relatives in mainland camps. The detainees were never formally charged and granted only token hearings. Many of the detainees’ sons served with

distinction in the U.S armed forces, including the legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.

“This report found that both the Kilauea Military Camp and the Honouliuli sites feature historic resources and recommended that the sites be nominated for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. In 2008, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii published a more detailed archeological reconnaissance of the Honouliuli site. This report found that there were numerous historic features that would qualify the site for National Historic Register and further recommended that the site be conserved. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii is currently working with Monsanto, the landowner, to nominate the Honouliuli Gulch site to be listed on the National Historic Register.

“So far I have received letters in support of this legislation from a range of local, regional and national organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, Hawaiian Historical Society, Go For Broke National Education Center, Japan America Society of Hawaii, Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese Citizens League, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, Japanese American Citizens League, The Conservation Fund, Densho, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Japanese American National Heritage Coalition and the Friends of Minidoka.

“This legislation will enable the National Park Service to study these important sites in my state and make recommendations to Congress regarding the best approach to conserve and manage these sites to tell this chapter in our nation’s history to current and future generations.”

Senator Inouye, who received the nation’s highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor, for his combat service, has said that it was an eye-opening experience to learn that many of his mainland 442nd “brothers” were willing to serve in harm’s way to prove their patriotism, even when their country had placed their family members in harsh, desolate camps surrounded by barbed wire and machine-gun towers.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, a co-sponsor of Senator Inouye’s bill, said: “The internment of innocent Americans at Honouliuli and elsewhere is a tragic chapter of our country’s history that we must never forget. Building on existing National Park Service initiatives, this new study will further efforts to share this difficult history in

a way that appropriately honors the experience and memory of those interned.”

The House version of Senator Inouye’s bill was also introduced today by U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono. Its co-sponsors include U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie.

Representative Hirono said: “I am proud to introduce the House version of this legislation. Most people do not know that Japanese Americans were forcibly interned in Hawaii during the war. It is important that we recognize that even Hawaii was not immune to race-based arrests and internments after the Pearl Harbor attack. The story of Honouliuli and the other incarceration sites would complement existing efforts to preserve and interpret the history of this period at the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Missouri, and other World War II sites in Hawaii.”

Representative Abercrombie added: “The internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry was one of the most shameful episodes in our nation’s history. Sadly, one has only to scan the headlines to realize that we need constant reminders about the ease with which we become suspicious and begin to assign blame for the challenges we face. These sites would also stand as a monument to the courage, quiet pride and unshakable loyalty of those who were subjected to internment.”

In addition to the support of the entire Hawaii delegation, the Inouye measure is also co-sponsored by Representatives Michael Honda, Doris Matsui, and Laura Richardson, all of California; David Wu of Oregon; Al Green of Texas; and Bobby Scott of Virginia; and Delegates Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa; Madeleine Bordallo of Guam; and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Lori Hamamoto (Inouye) 202-224-3934
Jesse Broder Van Dyke (Akaka) 202-224-6361

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS TO RECEIVE STIMULUS FUNDING, INOUYE AND AKAKA ANNOUNCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON -- Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye and Senator Daniel K. Akaka announced today that four Native Hawaiian health care systems will receive a total of \$460,139 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

These funds are in addition to \$2.7 million in stimulus funding Hawaii received for 14 other health centers, which the Senators announced on March 13, 2009.

Chairman Inouye and Senator Akaka said, "We are pleased these resources will help address the health care needs of Native Hawaiians."

Those that will receive the stimulus funding include:

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM	CITY	AMOUNT
Ke Ola Mamo, Inc	Honolulu	\$129,239
Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwi	Hilo	\$110,430
Na Puuwai, Inc.	Kaunakakai	\$111,385
Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Inc.	Wailuku	\$109,085

Hawaii residents can visit <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/> to learn more about health centers or find one near them.

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