

Speech to Kiwanis Club, Honolulu chapter

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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CONGRESSMAN DANIEL K. AKAKA
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AS MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, EACH ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TODAY HAS THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE SHAPE OF OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DEMAND OF YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE LEGISLATURE PUTS INTO ACTION DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMIC BASE. YOU HAVE THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND THE SAME OF BOTH THE STATE AND COUNTY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. YOU HAVE THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND THAT YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY DO THE SAME. I WOULD EVEN GO ONE STEP FURTHER, YOU HAVE MORE THAN THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES: IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR STATE, YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THE TOOLS FOR DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY ARE NOT YET IN PLACE AND THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ASK THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BEAR A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPANDING OUR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASES.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT ALL THE TOOLS WHICH HAWAII NEEDS TO ACHIEVE A TRULY DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY ARE ALREADY IN PLACE. WHAT REMAINS IS FINDING THE WILL TO DO SO. WE DON'T NEED MORE PLANS; WE DON'T NEED MORE PROGRAMS.

WHAT WE DO NEED IS THE AMBITION, DRIVE AND COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE DIVERSIFICATION BY THE YEAR 1992 AND PROFITABLE DIVERSIFICATION BY THE YEAR 2000.

THERE IS A RISK THAT SOME OF THE DIVERSIFIED ACTIVITIES WILL NOT BE PROFITABLE IN THE LONG RUN. MANY OTHERS WILL SUCCEED. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, IF WE CONTINUE TO BE RISK ADVERSE, THEN WE WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.

THE FACTS ARE VERY SIMPLE: IF WE DO NOT DIVERSIFY THE BASE FOUNDATION OF OUR ECONOMY--IF WE CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH AN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT BELONGS TO THE PAST--THEN WE WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE WITH THE ECONOMIC DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE USING THE TOOLS OF THE PAST . . . AND WE WILL NEVER ACHIEVE THAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHICH HAS BECOME THE BATTLE CRY OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

EACH ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TODAY BEARS PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER WE IN HAWAII HAVE THE COURAGE AND THE WISDOM AND THE FORESIGHT TO VENTURE INTO UNKNOWN TERRITORY AND THROW OFF THE SHROUD OF OUR PAST WAYS. WE CAN, IF WE CHOOSE, TELL TIME BY THE SUN--THE OLD HAWAIIAN WAY--OR WE CAN RELY ON DIGITAL CLOCKS. THE FINAL DECISION ON HOW MUCH WE CARE TO LIVE IN, BY AND WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE 20TH CENTURY DEPENDS ON US ALONE. ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF WE IN HAWAII HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO BE THE LEADERS OF OUR TIMES.

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IF WE REFUSE TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMIC BASE TO INCLUDE THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY, THEN WE WILL HAVE ONLY OURSELVES TO BLAME AS OUR BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE THE STATE IN SEARCH OF JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY.

AS MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, EACH ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TODAY HAS THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE SHAPE OF OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DEMAND OF YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE LEGISLATURE PUTS INTO ACTION DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMIC BASE. YOU HAVE THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND THE SAME OF BOTH THE STATE AND COUNTY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. YOU HAVE THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND THAT YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY DO THE SAME. I WOULD EVEN GO ONE STEP FURTHER, YOU HAVE MORE THAN THE POWER AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES: IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR STATE, YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THE TOOLS FOR DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY ARE NOT YET IN PLACE AND THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ASK THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BEAR A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPANDING OUR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASES.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT ALL THE TOOLS WHICH HAWAII NEEDS TO ACHIEVE A TRULY DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY ARE ALREADY IN PLACE. WHAT REMAINS IS FINDING THE WILL TO DO SO. WE DON'T NEED MORE PLANS; WE DON'T NEED MORE PROGRAMS.

WHAT WE DO NEED IS THE AMBITION, DRIVE AND COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE DIVERSIFICATION BY THE YEAR 1992 AND PROFITABLE DIVERSIFICATION BY THE YEAR 2000.

THERE IS A RISK THAT SOME OF THE DIVERSIFIED ACTIVITIES WILL NOT BE PROFITABLE IN THE LONG RUN. MANY OTHERS WILL SUCCEED. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, IF WE CONTINUE TO BE RISK ADVERSE, THEN WE WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.

THE FACTS ARE VERY SIMPLE: IF WE DO NOT DIVERSIFY THE BASE FOUNDATION OF OUR ECONOMY--IF WE CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH AN ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT BELONGS TO THE PAST--THEN WE WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE WITH THE ECONOMIC DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE USING THE TOOLS OF THE PAST . . . AND WE WILL NEVER ACHIEVE THAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHICH HAS BECOME THE BATTLE CRY OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

EACH ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM TODAY BEARS PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER WE IN HAWAII HAVE THE COURAGE AND THE WISDOM AND THE FORESIGHT TO VENTURE INTO UNKNOWN TERRITORY AND THROW OFF THE SHROUD OF OUR PAST WAYS. WE CAN, IF WE CHOOSE, TELL TIME BY THE SUN--THE OLD HAWAIIAN WAY--OR WE CAN RELY ON DIGITAL CLOCKS. THE FINAL DECISION ON HOW MUCH WE CARE TO LIVE IN, BY AND WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE 20TH CENTURY DEPENDS ON US ALONE. ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF WE IN HAWAII HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO BE THE LEADERS OF OUR TIMES.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.