

Chronological: Hawaii Federation of Teachers

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Chronological, Box SP3, Folder 73
<https://hdl.handle.net/10524/72196>

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I HAVE A SON WHO IS TWELVE YEARS OLD, A SEVENTH GRADER
IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND. AS A FATHER,
I AM VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH VIOLENCE ON THE CAMPUS. AS A
PRODUCT OF HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, I AM AWARE THAT CAMPUS
VIOLENCE IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON.

HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT VIOLENCE IS AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM DOES
NOT MAKE IT ANY LESS IMPORTANT. IT SHOULD BE A MATTER OF GRAVE
CONCERN TO ALL OF US.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE POLICE, WITH PRINCI-
PALS, WITH COUNSELORS, WITH TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS. MY
DISCUSSIONS HAVE LED ME TO A DISTRESSING CONCLUSION---THAT MOST
PARENTS CONTEND THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE HANDLED AND RESOLVED BY
TEACHERS, THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

I FIND THIS MOST DISTRESSING BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THIS PROBLEM CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY MINIMIZED AND ALLEVIATED IF PARENTS ADDRESSED THEMSELVES MORE POSITIVELY TO THIS MATTER.

DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, I HAVE NOTED THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THE FIGHTS ON CAMPUS INVOLVED RECENT RESIDENTS OR NEW CITIZENS OF FILIPINO ANCESTRY. I FIND THIS DISTRESSING BECAUSE OF THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONNOTATIONS OF THIS TYPE OF VIOLENCE.

OVER THE PAST TWO TO THREE YEARS, I FOUND INCREASING NUMBERS OF CONSTITUENTS WRITING TO ME URGING THAT I DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS IN OUR STATE, ESPECIALLY FILIPINOS. MANY OF THESE LETTERS HAVE SINGLED OUT THE FILIPINOS FOR SPECIAL AND AT TIMES, HATEFUL, TREATMENT.

PLEASE PERMIT ME TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS WITH YOU DISCUSSING THE SO-CALLED FILIPINO PROBLEM AND THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION.

AS MOST OF US ARE AWARE, LARGE NUMBERS OF FILIPINO MEN WERE BROUGHT INTO THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII DURING THE 20'S AND 30'S TO WORK IN OUR SUGAR AND PINEAPPLE PLANTATIONS. IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT WAY, WE OWE MUCH TO THESE FILIPINOS FOR THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF HAWAII.

THESE MEN WERE SHIPPED INTO HAWAII UNDER VERY UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENTS. A BRIEF STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF HAWAII SHOWS THAT OUR SUGAR AND PINEAPPLE PLANTATION OWNERS HAD DIFFICULTIES, FIRST WITH THE CHINESE BECAUSE THEY TENDED TO LEAVE THE FIELDS AFTER SERVING THEIR TIME AND AFTER ACCUMULATING A FEW DOLLARS TO BEGIN NEW ENTERPRISES IN THE CITY.

THE PLANTATION OWNERS ALSO HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE JAPANESE BECAUSE THEY TENDED TO ORGANIZE SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY, RESULTING IN FORMATIONS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. IN BOTH INSTANCES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE JAPANESE, THE PLANTATION OWNERS PERMITTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS TEMPLES, SCHOOLS, SOCIAL HALLS, AND ENCOURAGED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILIES. MOST OF THE MEN EITHER BROUGHT THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN WITH THEM OR BROUGHT IN PICTURE BRIDES. THE PLANTATION MANAGERS, AFTER EXPERIENCING LABOR PROBLEMS AND STRIKES WITH THE JAPANESE, DECIDED TO BRING IN WORKERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

BUT WITH THE FILIPINOS, TWO REQUIREMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED: FIRST, THAT THE MEN HAD TO BE SINGLE. IF THEY WERE MARRIED, THEY WERE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THEIR WIVES AND THEIR CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SECOND, THAT THESE MEN WERE TO BE UNEDUCATED AND ILLITERATE.

IT WAS FELT BY THE MANAGEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO HANDLE THIS TYPE OF PERSON AND THEREFORE, LESS TROUBLESOME THAN THE JAPANESE. AT THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II, THE RATIO OF FILIPINO MEN TO FILIPINO WOMEN WAS ABOUT 5 TO 1. I AM NOT A SOCIOLOGIST OR PSYCHOLOGIST OR PSYCHIATRIST, BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF THIS DAY CAN BE TRACED TO THIS BEGINNING.

MANY OF THESE PLANTATION WORKERS, AFTER HAVING SERVED FAITHFULLY IN THE FIELD, FOUND THEMSELVES ENTITLED TO SEEK PERMANENT RESIDENCY AND CITIZENSHIP. UPON RECEIVING THEIR CITIZENSHIP, THEY WERE ENTITLED TO BRING IN THEIR LONG-ABANDONED WIVES AND CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

ADDITIONALLY, MANY FILIPINOS HAVE COME TO OUR SHORES BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT IS RATHER COMMON WITH ALL OF US. ALL OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN LOVE. MANY OF OUR CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY MEN IN UNIFORM, HAVE SERVED AND WORKED IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OFTENTIMES HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE. MARRIAGE WAS A NATURAL RESULT. UNDER OUR LAWS, THESE AMERICANS ARE ENTITLED TO BRING IN THEIR SPOUSES.

MANY HAVE COME TO OUR SHORES UNDER SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF OUR LAWS. THERE ARE MANY DOCTORS, TECHNICIANS, AND SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY WORKING IN HAWAII BECAUSE OF OUR EMPLOYMENT LAWS. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MANY OF OUR HOSPITALS WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OPERATE WITHOUT THESE FILIPINO DOCTORS.

IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE HERE TO SERVE US.
IF THEY HAVE FAMILIES, THEIR FAMILIES USUALLY ACCOMPANY THEM TO
HAWAII.

MANY CAME TO OUR SHORES BECAUSE OF THEIR HONORABLE AND
DEDICATED SERVICE IN OUR ARMED FORCES. UNDER OUR LAWS, THE
FILIPINO CITIZEN WHO ENLISTS AND SERVES HONORABLY IN OUR
ARMED FORCES IS ENTITLED TO SEEK PERMANENT RESIDENCY AND LATER,
IS ENTITLED TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP. IF HE SUCCEEDS, HE IS
THEN ENTITLED TO BRING IN HIS FAMILY.

I GATHER THAT MANY OF THE FIGHTS INVOLVING FILIPINO YOUNG-
STERS HAVE RESULTED FROM MISUNDERSTANDINGS. OFTENTIMES, THIS
MISUNDERSTANDING HAS RESULTED FROM FAMILY DISCUSSIONS BY PARENTS
OF PARTICIPANTS.

I BELIEVE WE COULD APPRECIABLY ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM IF OUR YOUNG STUDENTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT MANY OF OUR FILIPINO YOUNGSTERS ARE CHILDREN OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY SERVED HAWAII IN OUR SUGAR AND PINEAPPLE PLANTATIONS; THAT THEY ARE CHILDREN OF MEN AND WOMEN OF SPECIAL TALENTS WHO SERVE US IN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS; THAT THESE CHILDREN ARE THE NATURAL RESULT OF A LOVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND A FILIPINO; THAT THESE CHILDREN HAVE PARENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US AND OUR NATION HONORABLY AND IN UNIFORM TO PROTECT AND DEFEND US.

I REALIZE THAT THIS TOUCHES BUT ONE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM, BUT I HOPE THAT IN SOME WAY IT CAN SERVE A GOOD PURPOSE.

IF WE CAN ACHIEVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE SO-CALLED
PROBLEM GROUPS --- THE FILIPINOS, THE SAMOANS, THE VIETNAMESE,
AND OTHERS --- I FEEL CERTAIN THAT CAMPUS VIOLENCE CAN BE
MINIMIZED.