

Chronological: Olinda Captive Propagation Facility, 1992-08-31

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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OLINDA CAPTIVE PROPAGATION FACILITY

AUGUST 31, 1992

**** To paraphrase the famous
conservationist Aldo Leopold, the
secret to intelligent tinkering
is saving all of the pieces.**

Humankind has certainly done its share of tinkering with Hawaii, and unfortunately we discovered too late the value of maintaining our native flora and fauna.

**** The Hawaiian Islands are home to 10,000 native animal and plant species found nowhere else on earth. It has the only tropical rain forests in the United States.**

One quarter of all endangered
plant and animal species in our
nation are found in Hawaii.

Yet, all is not well. Fully
two-thirds of all the original
forest cover on the islands has
been lost.

Seventy percent of all native
bird species in Hawaii have
become extinct in the decades
since the first settlers
arrived.

**** Today, the obituary list continues to grow. All across the Pacific, entire species of fauna and flora are falling victim to humans and the non-native predators introduced to the islands.**

**** Because of its varied ecosystem and rich cultural tradition, Hawaii is the environmental conscience of our nation and must be treated with care.**

**We simply must reverse the
extinction trend and preserve
what is left of Hawaii's native
birds for future generations.**

**** The efforts at Olinda to enhance the population of the endangered Alala and nene will soon expand to additional native forest birds.**

The work being done here, and continuing efforts to protect important habitats are critical to rescuing these species from the brink of extinction,

and I can assure everyone that I
will continue to work for more
funding and more creative
partnerships for the
conservation of Hawaii's natural
heritage for our children,

grandchildren, and future
generations.