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Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Mike Yuen
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MEMBER OF INOUE STAFF TO REPRESENT HAWAII AT NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Erin Masui of Honolulu Selected for Special Honor

Thursday, February 1, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye is pleased to announce today that a member of his Washington staff, Ms. Erin Masui, has been selected by the Hawaii State Society of Washington, D.C., to represent Hawaii during this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival.

“Erin is an intelligent and capable young lady, and she will be an outstanding goodwill ambassador. I know her parents, family, friends, and coworkers are very proud of her, and so am I,” Senator Inouye said.

Senator Daniel K. Akaka added: “I am well aware of Erin’s professionalism and dedication, as she interned in my Washington office during the summer of 2004. She is a great example of Hawaii’s multiculturalism and our culture of openness and understanding; similarly, those values are a cherished part of the unique traditions of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.”

Ms. Masui, 23, who now serves as Senator Inouye’s Legislative Correspondent and Staff Assistant, said: “This is a special honor. I will do my best to represent Hawaii, and to promote international understanding and friendship.”

Ms. Masui, the daughter of Stanford and Doretta Masui, was born and raised in

Honolulu. She is a graduate of Punahou School, and the University of Washington, where she was a Dean's List student who earned a bachelor's degree in political science and English. Prior to joining Senator Inouye's staff in July 2006, Ms. Masui served as a legislative aide to Hawaii State Representative Marcus Oshiro when he was House Majority Leader.

At the University of Washington, Ms. Masui studied in London during her junior year. Through a special university program, she worked as a legislative and press intern in the Capitol Hill office of U.S. Senator Patty Murray of Washington for three months during her senior year.

From the age of 6 through her senior year at Punahou, Ms. Masui danced with Hawaii State Ballet. She also performed with the Punahou Dance School during her junior year of high school.

The 2007 National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the 95th anniversary of the City of Tokyo's gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the people of Washington, D.C., and serves as an enduring symbol of friendship between Japan and the United States. The weeklong festival begins on Sunday, April 8, 2007.

During the festival, Ms. Masui and the princesses representing other states and several other countries will participate in educational, leadership, and cultural activities that nurture international relationships and cultural exchanges. At the conclusion of the festival, one of the princesses will be selected as the United States Cherry Blossom Queen.

The United States Cherry Blossom Princess program is sponsored by the National Conference of State Societies along with individual state societies that select young women based on their leadership, academic achievements, and their interests in community and international affairs.

An e-photograph of Ms. Masui, which may be used for news-related purposes, can be found at <http://inouye.senate.gov/07pr/masui.jpg>.

The URL is case sensitive.

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U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
Ted Stevens, Vice Chairman

For Immediate Release

Teri Rucker (202) 224-4546

February 7, 2007

Jenilee Keefe (202) 224-7824

Senators Inouye, Stevens Introduce Bill To Improve Aviation Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Commerce Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Alaska) and Vice Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) introduced legislation late Tuesday that would improve aviation security by enhancing passenger and cargo screening processes. Senators Jay Rockefeller, (D-WV), Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) cosponsored the Aviation Security Improvement Act.

“The government must remain vigilant in its effort to provide security for our nation, and the steps proposed in this bill will both improve our existing security system and give the Transportation Security Administration the flexibility to combat new and emerging threats,” Senator Inouye said.

“New security technologies will continue to play a vital role in our overall aviation security,” said Senator Stevens. “This bill will provide the Transportation Security Administration with new and innovative security tools to improve the safety of our air passengers and cargo.”

The bill would require the screening of all cargo on passenger airplanes within three years. The cargo screening program strikes a balance between ensuring all cargo on passenger aircraft is secure and ensuring the movement of commerce. The legislation also extends the Aviation Security Capital Fund so airports can purchase advanced baggage screening systems that can be integrated into current screening systems.

Airline passenger prescreening remains a primary concern of air travelers and the Congress, because too many passengers are inconvenienced by false positives when matched against passenger watchlists. These errors also take valuable attention and resources away from those passengers who do pose a threat to security.

This bill would ensure a system is in place to handle passenger redress issues and requires the TSA to move rapidly to develop a strategic plan to test and implement an advanced passenger prescreening system.

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KPUA, Hilo: 808-935-7761

PBS Hawaii: 808-973-1090
KHPR: 808-942-5477

U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM MS. EMILY MURPHY
OF SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
REDMOND, WASHINGTON**

February 15, 2007

QUESTION: How did you feel fighting for a country that had your people interned?

INOUE: Because martial law had been declared in Hawaii, I was unaware of the massive relocation of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast to internment camps in desolate parts of our country. Martial law meant that newspapers were censored, and, as a result, there were no news reports of the relocation and internment.

I learned of the relocation and internment when I was in training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi with other members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. That's when I first met mainland Nisei who had volunteered to serve our country, even though their parents and loved ones remained unjustly incarcerated in the camps, which were surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers.

To this day I continue to wonder if I would have enlisted in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team if I had been forced with my family into an internment camp. What the mainland Nisei did required much courage. For those of us from Hawaii, enlisting in the 442nd was an easy choice not wrought with moral complications.

Although the treatment of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II was shameful, their response to that treatment should be a source of pride for all Americans, as should our country's subsequent apology. I am proud that during this challenging period in American history, Japanese Americans – under trying circumstances at home and on battlefields far from home – demonstrated, with much courage and sacrifice, that their patriotism was beyond question.

QUESTION: What are some of the lessons from the Japanese American Internment Camps that you feel we should remember while we face the challenges following September 11?

INOUE: The lessons of history can be painful, but they continue to be relevant and help guide our present and future course. More than 60 years ago, our nation was engaged in a war against the Axis powers. Now, as a result of 9/11, we are fighting a global war on terror with our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the Japanese American experience demonstrated, we cannot allow war-related hysteria to undermine our democratic ideals and tradition of civil liberties. Any time a particular group of Americans is persecuted without legal justification, all Americans are put at risk of having their constitutional rights undermined.

We must never allow wartime hysteria to trample on our most cherished beliefs, which include equal justice for all.

Washington Reception

Preservation of the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp

Heart Mountain, Wyoming, Foundation

3737 Garfield Street, NW

Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the invitation to join you tonight. Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to be with you. Please know, however, I am with you in spirit, and I support your efforts to preserve the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp as a historic site.

Heart Mountain was one of 10 major relocation camps in which 120,000 Japanese Americans were confined. One the internees at Heart Mountain was Norman Mineta, who as a boy, had the unusual experience of being a Boy Scout behind barbed wire. Mr. Mineta, who went on to a distinguished career as Mayor of San Jose, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Cabinet Secretary in two administrations, has spoken eloquently of the injustice of that wartime incarceration more than 60 years ago, and the continuing need to ensure that a similar tragedy does not happen again.

Heart Mountain and the other wartime internment camps are symbols of the strength, honor, and forbearance of Americans of Japanese ancestry during one of the most challenging periods in our nation's history. I am pleased to have championed legislation, which the President signed into law two months ago, that brings closer to reality the preservation of relocation camps, such as heart Mountain.

I encourage you to move forward with your worthy project. You have my best wishes for a memorable and productive evening.

DRAFT

CONGRESS APPROVES \$62.5 MILLION FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN PROGRAMS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

Delegation Promises to Continue to Advocate for Native Hawaiian Initiatives

Thursday, February 15, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — Members of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation said today they are pleased to have worked for the inclusion of nearly \$62.5 million in Native Hawaiian initiatives into the final appropriations measure for the current fiscal year, and they vowed to continue to champion Native Hawaiian programs.

They said their advocacy of vital Native Hawaiian initiatives is even more crucial now because the President has eliminated Native Hawaiian education and health care projects from the administration's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The President's Fiscal Year 2008 budget also makes dreadfully wrong choices for many of Hawaii's working families of all backgrounds, they added.

Fortunately, the continuing funding resolution for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007, includes funds for Native Hawaiian education, health care, and housing, said Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka, and Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono.

The legislation cleared its final legislative hurdle the evening of Wednesday, February 14, 2007, when the Senate voted 81 to 15 for passage. The measure, which was passed by the House of Representatives on January 31, 2007, by a vote of 286 to 140, now moves to the White House to be signed into law.

"Given the unfinished work of the 109th Congress under the previous majority, our nation's budget was left in terrible shape," said Senator Inouye, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Fortunately, we were able to rectify some of the shortcomings of the current budget as it pertains to Native Hawaiian initiatives. Now, we must work to rectify the shortcomings of the administration's budget for Fiscal Year 2008."

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka added: "I am pleased that Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and the Democratic Party as a whole, came together to preserve vital

health and education opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This continuing resolution will benefit Hawaii's entire public health and educational infrastructure, and will help us continue to serve the state of Hawaii."

"We were able," U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie said, "to rescue nearly \$63 million in funding for Native Hawaiian health, housing, and education programs from the Republicans 2007 budget train wreck. The Bush administration is trying to kill some of these programs in its 2008 budget request. However, the Hawaii delegation is not about to let that happen."

U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono said: "Our delegation is together on the critical importance of continuing to fund Native Hawaiian programs. Despite the decision of the Bush administration to zero out funding for Native Hawaiian education, I am confident that Hawaii's Congressional Delegation will be able to continue to secure funding for this and other important programs that impact the lives of Native Hawaiians."

The continuing funding resolution for the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends on September 30, 2007, includes:

- * Nearly \$34 million for Native Hawaiian education programs, under the No Child Left Behind Act.

- * Nearly \$14 million for Native Hawaiian health care, under the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act.

- * Nearly \$9 million for Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants

- * Nearly \$6 million through the Native Alaskan/Native Hawaiian Institutional Aid provision of the Higher Education Act.

In addition to zeroing out some Native Hawaiian programs, the President's budget for the next fiscal year cuts retirement benefits for some 140,000 local residents; weakens traditional employer-sponsored health insurance, which cover 741,000 local workers and their families; and threatens Hawaii's 171,000 Medicare and 128,000 Medicaid patients with program cuts, delegation members said.

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HAWAII NONPROFIT TO RECEIVE NEARLY \$730,000 TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS, INOUYE ANNOUNCES

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONOLULU — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that a Honolulu-based nonprofit agency will receive two federal grants totaling nearly \$730,000 to help alleviate homelessness in Hawaii.

“Unfortunately, homelessness has become a pervasive problem in Hawaii, with hundreds of people living on beaches, even though they might have jobs. It is also a particularly heavy burden for individuals coping with HIV/AIDS,” said Senator Inouye, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “But these funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development can make a difference, and help transition local residents in unfortunate circumstances to stable housing situations.”

Gregory House Programs, which serves the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, will directly receive \$358,400 from HUD’s Supportive Housing Program. This initiative supports services for individuals and families transitioning to housing that provides stable shelter, and also provides job training, Senator Inouye said.

Gregory House will also receive \$370,476, which will be channeled through the state, from HUD’s Shelter Plus Care initiative. This project provides rental assistance for homeless people with disabilities, Senator Inouye added.

“I am pleased that the federal government can have a vital role in addressing Hawaii’s homeless situation,” he said.

February 27, 2007

To: Wehr, KITV

Fr: Yuen

The Senator does have a second cousin in Washington state by the name of Peter Inouye. He does not recall having met him.

Senator Inouye said: "The investigation of Peter Jacob Inouye involves serious, shocking charges. I am confident that this matter will be handled professionally and properly by law enforcement authorities and the courts."