

# Washington, D.C.: Public Relations: Newsletters: Kahoolawe

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Administrative Files, Washington, D.C., Public Relations, Newsletters, Box AD41, Folder 58

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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 94<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 121

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No. 172

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This provision is significant because officials at the Pentagon have not been willing to take any steps toward the restoration of the 45-square-mile island. Today Kahoolawe continues to be the site of joint Army and Navy bombing operations even though the tiny island is located a mere 8 miles off the island of Maui, Hawaii's second largest island and an area undergoing tremendous population growth and economic development.

The bombs have been falling on Kahoolawe for 30 years and too often have been falling very close to the backyards of the Maui residents. In fact, the mayor of Maui County in September 1969 discovered unexploded ordnance buried in the pasture of his Maui farm. A Navy investigation later determined that the bomb had been dropped in 1966 but was in no danger of detonating. It is an understatement for me to say today that the bombing operations have tried the patience of the mayor and his fellow residents of Maui.

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Executive order which declared that the island would remain in the possession of the United States for public purposes. Under terms of the order, when the Navy decided that the area was no longer needed, the island would be rendered reasonably safe for human habitation without cost to Hawaii and returned to the latter's jurisdiction.

For several years, I have been extremely concerned about the dangers presented by the continued bombing of Kahoolawe. In response to my inquiries and correspondence, the Navy has insisted that the island constitutes a necessary element of national security effort because it affords the military a realistic training site. The Navy also has asserted that surface and air bombardment has eliminated the possibility of any future, safe domestic use of Kahoolawe.

I suspect there must be other insular targets that the Navy may set its sights on, however, no one in the civilian sector knows for sure if the Navy has even considered efforts to locate a less objectionable target, removed from population centers and totally useless for any future development.

Furthermore, it is not axiomatic that Kahoolawe cannot be restored or cultivated. In last year's annual report to the Governor of Hawaii, the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources noted that trial planting projects at Kahoolawe have enjoyed some success; since 1970, ironwoods and tamarisk have adapted to the island's dry soil and ironwoods have grown to heights ranging from 8 to 18 feet in 4 years. The report also stated that these trees promise to provide protection for other native

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And, of course, freedom from the Navy.

That would mean ridding large portions of the Island of unexploded bombs, goats that destroy the ground cover, and rusted vehicles that serve as practice targets for Navy bombers.

Water, they say, could be made available for irrigation by desalination of sea water, or it could be piped from nearby Maui.

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"I am very glad they are doing something about it," she said today. "It's high time that action is being taken to return the Island to civilian use. It is a great pity to waste so much land.

"The Island still could be beautiful and productive.

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The Island's slopes are corrugated with gulches 50 to 200 feet deep.

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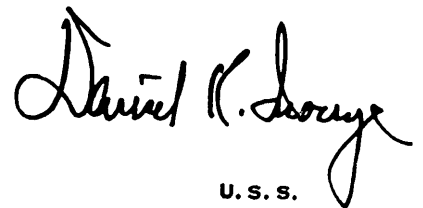
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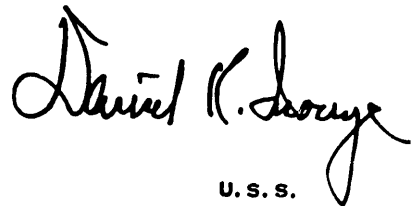
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