

Chronological: Kapalua Conference, Cultural Values in an Age of Technology, Maui

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



STATEMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
BEFORE THE MAY 26, 1992 KAPALUA CONFERENCE
CULTURAL VALUES IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF HAWAII WILL ONE DAY BE RETURNED TO THE SOVEREIGN STATUS THEY ENJOYED BEFORE THE OVERTHROW OF QUEEN LILIOUKALANI, AND THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN DESTINY.

IN MANY WAYS, WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT PRESENTED A CHALLENGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ISLANDS UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, BECAUSE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO BECOME TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED -- AND THUS, TO DETERMINE HOW WE WILL USE TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES -- NOT TO HAVE TECHNOLOGY DICTATE OR DETERMINE HOW WE WILL LIVE.

TODAY, WE CAN DEMAND THAT ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY BE USED FOR OUR BENEFIT -- ADVANCES WHICH WILL MINIMIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF OLDER TECHNOLOGY.

IT IS WITHIN OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL TECHNOLOGY -- TO SHAPE THE PACE AND GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY -- WE CAN REQUIRE THAT THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY BRING WITH IT -- BENEFITS TO OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES.

WE CAN INSIST THAT LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLES.

IN MANY RESPECTS, WE HAVE BEEN SPARED THE MISTAKES AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LESSER DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGIES.

WE CAN SELECT FROM A MODERN MENU OF HIGHLY ADVANCED IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, AND DO SO WITH A SENSITIVITY TO RETAINING THAT WHICH IS INHERENTLY AND IRREPLACEABLY OURS. WE NEED NOT SACRIFICE OUR VALUES, OUR IDEALS, OUR CULTURE OR OUR TRADITIONS IN THE PROCESS.

THE KEY ELEMENT IN ALL THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IS INVOLVEMENT -- THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE -- IN THE PLANNING FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE. THIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY WILL ASSURE THAT WHAT IS NEW IS NOT ALIEN.

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WE ISLAND PEOPLE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER TO OUR WORLD.

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TODAY IN HAWAII, A GREAT MOVEMENT HAS BEGUN -- A MOVEMENT TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS. THIS MOVEMENT IS SUPPORTED BY OTHER NATIVE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES -- IT IS A MOVEMENT WHICH REFLECTS THE COMMITMENT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY.

THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF HAWAII WILL ONE DAY BE RETURNED TO THE SOVEREIGN STATUS THEY ENJOYED BEFORE THE OVERTHROW OF QUEEN LILIOUKALANI, AND THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN DESTINY.

IN MANY WAYS, WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT PRESENTED A CHALLENGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ISLANDS UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, BECAUSE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE HAVE THE MEANS TO BECOME TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED -- AND THUS, TO DETERMINE HOW WE WILL USE TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES -- NOT TO HAVE TECHNOLOGY DICTATE OR DETERMINE HOW WE WILL LIVE.

TODAY, WE CAN DEMAND THAT ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY BE USED FOR OUR BENEFIT -- ADVANCES WHICH WILL MINIMIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF OLDER TECHNOLOGY.

IT IS WITHIN OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL TECHNOLOGY -- TO SHAPE THE PACE AND GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY -- WE CAN REQUIRE THAT THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY BRING WITH IT -- BENEFITS TO OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES.

WE CAN INSIST THAT LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLES.

IN MANY RESPECTS, WE HAVE BEEN SPARED THE MISTAKES AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LESSER DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGIES.

WE CAN SELECT FROM A MODERN MENU OF HIGHLY ADVANCED IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY, AND DO SO WITH A SENSITIVITY TO RETAINING THAT WHICH IS INHERENTLY AND IRREPLACEABLY OURS. WE NEED NOT SACRIFICE OUR VALUES, OUR IDEALS, OUR CULTURE OR OUR TRADITIONS IN THE PROCESS.

THE KEY ELEMENT IN ALL THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IS INVOLVEMENT -- THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE -- IN THE PLANNING FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE. THIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY WILL ASSURE THAT WHAT IS NEW IS NOT ALIEN.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE WILL ASSURE THAT WHAT IS NEW IS WELL ENOUGH UNDERSTOOD SO THAT IT NEED NOT OVERCOME OUR CULTURES NOR OUR TRADITIONAL WAYS OF LIFE.

WE ISLAND PEOPLE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER TO OUR WORLD.