

# Remarks of the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka on the occasion of the groundbreaking for Elden and Lina Zinn's residence

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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REMARKS OF THE HON. DANIEL K. AKAKA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING  
FOR ELDEN AND LINA ZINN'S RESIDENCE  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1988  
WAIANA KAI, OAHU

ALOHA.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN HAWAII. AND, IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE  
IN WAIANA KAI, FOR ELDEN AND LINA'S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW SOMETHING THAT I HAVE NOT TOLD MANY PEOPLE  
BEFORE. THIS DAY, OF ALL THE DAYS THAT I HAVE SPENT IN THE  
U.S. CONGRESS, WILL GO DOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE OF  
MY CAREER. AND, THAT IS BECAUSE IT MARKS, FINALLY, A LONG-  
AWAITED GOAL: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF ITS  
RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS.

STANDING HERE TODAY, RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS  
EVENT TO OUR HOMESTEADING PROGRAM, I AM REMINDED OF A SIGN  
THAT WAS ONCE SEEN UNDER A MOUNTED FISH. THE FISH, HUNG ON A  
LARGE WALL, HAD UNDER IT THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "IF I HAD KEPT  
MY MOUTH SHUT...I WOULDN'T BE HERE."

LIKE THAT FISH, IF I HAD KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT MANY YEARS AGO, I  
WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY. BUT, UNLIKE THE FISH, WHO BECAUSE  
OF AN OPEN MOUTH ULTIMATELY MET HIS DEATH, SILENCE, IN MY  
CASE WOULD HAVE MEANT THE CONTINUATION OF A GROSSLY UNJUST  
SYSTEM.

ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, THE STATE CAME TO ME WITH A VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION: WHY, WITH ALL OF THE HOUSING PROGRAMS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATES, ISN'T THERE ONE THAT WILL HELP OUR HOMESTEADER'S GET MORTGAGES FOR THEIR HOMES? WHY, WHEN CONGRESS CREATED THE HOMELAND PROGRAM IN THE FIRST PLACE, DID IT NOT ENSURE HOMESTEADERS THE SAME RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THAT OTHER AMERICAN HOMEOWNERS RECEIVE?

WELL, I MUST ADMIT THAT FIVE YEARS AGO I DIDN'T HAVE THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS. TODAY, HOWEVER, I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT I DO. WITH CONGRESS' APPROVAL OF SORELY-NEEDED LEGISLATION, AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S LONG-AWAITED, BUT MUCH APPRECIATED, ENACTMENT OF THAT LEGISLATION, IT IS WITH THE GREATEST PRIDE THAT I STAND HERE TODAY, DEEPLY HONORED TO SEE THE ANSWER PUT TO WORK.

FOR ELDEN AND LINA, TODAY MARKS THE START OF A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LIFE. THE START OF A FAMILY HOME THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HOLD FOND AND COUNTLESS MEMORIES. ELDEN AND LINA, CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTH FUTURE.

FOR THE REST OF US, AND FOR THE ENTIRE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY, TODAY REPRESENTS A NEW BEGINNING. IT IS A DAY THAT WILL EFFECT THE SPIRIT OF ALL OF OUR PEOPLE. BRINGING US ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN, THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

FOR JOHN, ILIMA, AND THE ENTIRE HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS DEPARTMENT, THE DAYS AND MONTHS AHEAD WILL BE EXTREMELY BUSY.

I WANT TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL  
PROGRAM, AND HOPE THAT YOU KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE  
TO HELP IF THE NEED ARISES. THANK YOU.