

Hawai'i County Economic Opportunity Council, county education forum

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

Public relations, Speeches, statements, and messages, Box PR2, Folder 140

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HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL
COUNTY EDUCATION FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-HILO STUDENT CAMPUS CENTER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN, STUDENTS, PARENTS, OTHER HONORED GUESTS,
AND DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS, WELCOME TO THIS COMMUNITY
EDUCATION FORUM, AND MAHALO FOR YOUR INVITATION TO BE HERE
THIS MORNING. THIS FORUM, I AM ADVISED, WILL CONTINUE OUR
EXPLORATION INTO THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN LIFTING
PEOPLE FROM POVERTY, IF NOT TO AFFLUENCE, THEN TO A HIGHER
STANDARD OF LIVING.

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, I DO NOT THINK THAT ANYONE
SERIOUSLY QUESTIONS THE THESIS THAT EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO
NATIONAL GREATNESS, A GREATNESS WHICH IS THE SUM OF ALL
ITS PARTS; WE, AN EDUCATED CITIZENRY, WHILE WE HAVE
SUCCEEDED FOR THE MOST PART IN UPLIFTING SOCIETY AS A WHOLE
THROUGH OUR SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL FREE EDUCATION, WE DO HAVE
POCKETS WHERE SUCCESS SEEMS TO HAVE ELUDED US, NOT ONLY AT
THE BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS, BUT ALSO AT THE
COLLEGIATE AND GRADUATE LEVELS. ON THE ENTRY LEVELS, WE
HAVE STUDENTS WHO ARE FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE, WHOSE
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DO NOT LIVE UP TO THEIR POTENTIALS,
AND WHOSE LACK OF MOTIVATION SEEMS TO DESTINE THEM TO FAILURE.
AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVELS, ESPECIALLY AT THE GRADUTE LEVELS,
WE ARE NOT PRODUCING OUR SHARE OF APPLIED SCIENTISTS.

AT THE BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE ENTRY LEVELS, SOME OF OUR CHILDREN DO NOT GET THE FULL BENEFIT OF OUR STANDARD SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE MANY, INCLUDING THE LACK OF MOTIVATION, NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE, THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO GIVE PERSONAL ATTENTION AT A TIME WHEN SUCH PERSONAL ATTENTION ON A TIMELY BASIS WOULD HAVE DONE WONDERS INDIFFERENCE AND MANY OTHER REASONS. CERTAINLY, I WOULD SAY THAT STUDENTS ARE GENERALLY CAPABLE OF DOING WHAT MOST OTHER STUDENTS ACHIEVE, THAT THEY CAN AT LEAST ACHIEVE AS MUCH AS OTHER STUDENTS, IF NOT THROUGH OUR REGULAR PROGRAM, THEN THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS GEORGE YOKOYAMA'S HAWAII ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL'S DROP-OUT PREVENTION PROGRAM, THEIR LANGUAGE ARTS MULTICULTURAL PROGRAM AND THE HEAD START PROGRAM. THESE ARE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION IN THEM IS A POSITIVE INDICATION THAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, RECOGNIZE THE EFFICACY OF THESE PROGRAMS, ONE OF WHOSE STRONGEST BASES OF SUCCESS IS PARENTAL PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT, INVOLVEMENT BY PARENTS. PARTICIPATION BY PARENTS. INTEREST EXPRESSED BY PARENTS. PARENTS WILLINGNESS TO JOIN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE UPLIFTING OF THEIR CHILDREN, OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE. IF EDUCATION COMES, SUCCESS CAN SURELY NOT BE FAR BEHIND.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO STRESS WHAT IS SELF-EVIDENT. THIS FORUM IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE GATHERED HERE THIS MORNING NOT ONLY OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS IN EDUCATION, BUT OUR STATE LEADERS IN EDUCATION TO SERVE AS PANELISTS ON THE FORUM. WE HAVE SENATOR MALAMA SOLOMON, CHAIR OF HIGHER EDUCATION; REPRESENTATIVE ROD TAM, CHAIR OF LOWER EDUCATION; REPRESENTATIVE WAYNE METCALF, CHAIR OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE THROUGH WHOSE COMMITTEE FLOWS ALL SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION; DR. GARSON, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR HAWAII; AND DR. KORMANDY, CHANCELLOR OF UH-HILO WHOSE INSTALLATION I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO PARTICIPATE IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO. AND, OF COURSE, WE HAVE REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT TAKAMINE, OUR MODERATOR FOR THIS MORNING. OUTSIDE OF BEING AT THE STATE CAPITOL, I DO NOT BELIEVE I HAVE SEEN SUCH AN ASSEMBLAGE OF INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE, POWERHOUSES IF YOU WILL, AT ONE PLACE, AT ONE TIME. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THEM THAT THEY ARE HERE TODAY, AND A TRIBUTE TO YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY TO JOIN FORCES IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.

ALOHA AND MAHALO AGAIN FOR YOUR INVITATION. I KNOW YOU WILL HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FORUM.

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Abbie Nagechi, Muriel Hughes

HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

34 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2098

Telephone (808) 961-2681

Pohole, Hookena,

Parent Testimonials

1. Zee Nisavaro (Leina)

Eileen Froman
Duane Corvalho Pys

2. Jessie Kay
Julia Blanco
Julie Watson - Hookena

3. Beatrice Cabrel - Honokaa, Laysan, Kapehu
Finance Compton - Student
Students - 2

HCEOC EDUCATIONAL FORUM AGENDA

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII--STUDENT CAMPUS CENTER
AUGUST 15, 1987

9:00 A. M. REGISTRATION

9:30 A. M. ✓ OPENING ADDRESS - CONGRESSMAN DANIEL AKAKA

9:40 A. M. ✓ PRESENTATION OF PROGRAM RESULTS
(BY RESOURCE PEOPLE)

101 - Parents 10 Chrs.
Students 283 = 222 - U (191)
4 Sch., 340 chldn, 37th Gr.
5 HSch, 116 clients, 122 visits

1. HEAD START Katherine Clifford - Educ 2. Screening 3. Nutrition 4. Mental Health
2. LANGUAGE ARTS MULTI-CULTURAL PROGRAM - Marilyn Duarte 1. Lang Arts 2. M.C. Materials 3. Parent Inv.
3. DROP-OUT PREVENTION - Sharon Sekoda - 1. Redner Program
Kona, Waialeale, Honolulu, Recornd - join DOE in this programs.

7. Staff Dev. & Trng
5. Parent Involvement 6. Therapy

10:00 A. M. ✓ INPUT BY PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS

10:30 A. M. ✓ REMARKS BY PANELISTS Garson - Networking, Chrs, In Service Trng, Partnership, Changing Jobs, Prevention
Kormondy - Volunteerism, Dev. Skills, Intervention Prog. Continuum Support Systems, Revitalized

11:00 A. M. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD Programs - Hd Start - Coll Ed; Funded Programs - State, Fed, Howard Bd 4th
Tamm - Budget oriented, not educators, Sch should be interesting + challenging, Human Beings, 10th

11:30 A. M. CLOSING REMARKS BY PANELISTS Metcalf - Changing Society + needs,

12:00 NOON LUNCH

12:30 P. M. LUNCHEON SPEAKER (MR. MUFI HANNEMAN)

1:00 P. M. CLOSING REMARKS

PANELISTS:

DR. KORMONDY - CHANCELLOR UH-HILO
 DR. GARSON - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
 SENATOR SOLOMAN - CHAIRPERSON, SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 REPRESENTATIVE TAM - CHAIRMAN, HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF - CHAIRMAN, HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
 MODERATOR: REPRESENTATIVE TAKAMINE, CHAIRMAN HOUSE EMPLOYMENT
 OPPORTUNITIES AND LABOR RELATIONS