

# Chronological: Hawaii State Law Enforcement Officials Association, 32nd Annual Conference, Sheraton Waikiki, 1985-08-29

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers  
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**news from**

# **Senator DANIEL K. INOUE**

**topic:** HAWAII STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**date:** SHERATON-WAIKIKI HOTEL  
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--HONOLULU, HAWAII-- If I am a bit parochial in my remarks this morning, I hope you will forgive me. Although I have been a member of Congress for over 26 years, I have been a resident of Honolulu for over 60 years.

In the summer of 1940, during a police raid on one of our better-known billiard establishments, I was picked up as an unauthorized juvenile in a pool room. I was escorted to the Bethel Street HPD Headquarters by a tall, imposing police officer. We entered the elevator, but as we reached the second floor to be fingerprinted, he reversed the elevator and brought me back down to the first floor. He told me he was giving me a break, but that the next time he would be compelled to book me as a common criminal. I still remember his words -- "a criminal record will follow you throughout your life".

Needless to say, I was extremely grateful to the officer.

Since then, my encounters and relationships with members of the police force have been extremely friendly and meaningful. After serving a year as assistant prosecutor, I left with the highest praise for the force. The men and women were professional, efficient, and always helpful. As a Territorial legislator, I was privileged to work very closely with the department on matters relating to criminal law. Here again, I found the men and women of the department to be extremely professional and efficient. As a U.S. Senator, it has been my privilege to carry on this close relationship.

Therefore, I have been very saddened by the critical rhetoric of recent weeks. I feel certain that many in our community, after having seen and heard these critical words, must have concluded that at best, the men and women of the Honolulu Police Department are inept, stupid and inefficient, and at worst, in league with the mob.

In preparing for this morning's meeting, I conferred with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation. The information provided me by the Bureau, which I am about to share with you is part of the public domain and is included in the Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI for 1984.

In 1984, in cities of comparable size, the crime index total of Honolulu was the lowest. Honolulu, with a population of 810,772 had a crime index total of 44,560. Washington, D.C. had a crime index total of 53,524. San Francisco had a crime index total of 59,896. Baltimore had a crime index total of 65,363 and Phoenix had a crime index total of 71,279.

Honolulu not only had the lowest crime index total of the cities listed, but also the smallest police force -- 1,645 in 1984. In 1984, the City of Washington, DC, with a crime index of 9,000 higher than Honolulu, had a metropolitan force of 3,866, together with the Federal Protective Service (GSA) force of 820, the Supreme Court Police of 62, the Library of Congress Police of 138, the U.S. Park Police of 471, and the White House Uniformed Police of 973, together with the Capitol police force of 1,150 -- for a grand total of 7,480. All of these men and women are in uniform with side arms and badges with the authority to arrest and, if necessary, kill.

Honolulu with a police force of 1,645 men and women in uniform had a crime index of 44,560 and the D.C. police force with 7,480 had a crime index of 53,524.

In 1984, the violent crime rate per 100,000 in metropolitan areas of comparable size:

Honolulu	had a rate of 240.5	-- the lowest in the comparative study
Greensboro/Winston-Salem		-- 455.9
Nashville		-- 463.6
Richmond		-- 507.7
Dayton		-- 516.0
Memphis		--1040.6

Then, of the cities of comparable size, in 1984, Honolulu had the lowest officer involved shooting ratio. The men and women of the Honolulu Police Department are among the best disciplined and best trained in the nation. The citizens of Hawaii are fortunate in not having trigger-happy officers, who appear to be common place in other cities.

Most of our TV viewers, in watching shows like Hill Street Blues, MacGruder and Loud, Cagney and Lacy, and T.J. Hooker note that all the patrol officers have partners, and most of the stories evolve around these partnerships. I am certain also that most of these TV viewers assume that this is the situation in Honolulu. In Honolulu, we get the work of two for the price of one. There are no partners in the Honolulu Police Department.

Honolulu is a port city and an international crossroads. But our small police force has been able to keep our crime index the lowest of all cities of comparable size. Noting the efficiency and discipline of our force, you would justifiably expect our men and women to be the best paid.

According to the 1985 Municipal Yearbook, the starting pay for uniformed patrolmen in Honolulu is \$18,312 and the maximum pay is \$22,348. In San Francisco the starting pay of \$24,726 is higher than our maximum, and the San Francisco maximum pay is \$28,626 -- a pay much higher than that received by most HPD Sergeants. In D.C., with 7,480 uniformed police officers and a crime index higher than Honolulu, beginning pay is \$19,850 and their maximum pay is \$28,548.

I am certain you have concluded by now that the low pay scale is not just limited to patrol officers but involves every category -- Sgt., Lt., Captains, Majors and Chief. We have the lowest-paid police personnel as compared to officers in other cities of comparable size.

And so, instead of being critical of our police force, we should be commending our men and women in uniform. I can only express my amazement in and gratitude to our men and women in uniform for working under difficult, dangerous and trying circumstances for \$18,312 beginning pay and a maximum of \$22,348. I am almost embarrassed to tell you that my clerk typist is better paid. In fact, I have on my staff two persons whose salaries exceed that of the Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department.

Originally, I was prepared to present a statement that was relevant to the theme of this conference of "Psychology in Law Enforcement". However, I just could not resist this opportunity to set the record straight. I hope you will understand.

In closing, I wish to convey to the men and women in uniform my deepest gratitude for their service to our community. All I can say is that "lucky I live in Honolulu."

SPEECH DELIVERED TO:

HAWAII STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ASSN.  
32nd Annual Conference at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel  
August 29, 1985

IF I AM A BIT PAROCHIAL IN MY REMARKS THIS MORNING,  
I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME. ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER  
OF CONGRESS FOR OVER 26 YEARS, I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF  
HONOLULU FOR OVER 60 YEARS.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1940, DURING A POLICE RAID ON ONE  
OF OUR BETTER-KNOWN BILLIARD ESTABLISHMENTS, I WAS PICKED UP  
AS AN UNAUTHORIZED JUVENILE IN A POOL ROOM.

I WAS ESCORTED TO THE BETHEL STREET HPD HEADQUARTERS  
BY A TALL, IMPOSING POLICE OFFICER. WE ENTERED THE  
ELEVATOR, BUT AS WE REACHED THE SECOND FLOOR TO BE  
FINGERPRINTED, HE REVERSED THE ELEVATOR AND BROUGHT ME  
BACK DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR. HE TOLD ME HE WAS GIVING  
ME A BREAK, BUT THAT THE NEXT TIME HE WOULD BE COMPELLED  
TO BOOK ME AS A COMMON CRIMINAL. I STILL REMEMBER HIS WORDS--  
"A CRIMINAL RECORD WILL FOLLOW YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE".

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE OFFICER.  
SINCE THEN, MY ENCOUNTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEMBERS  
OF THE POLICE FORCE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND  
MEANINGFUL. AFTER SERVING A YEAR AS ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR,  
I LEFT WITH THE HIGHEST PRAISE FOR THE FORCE. THE MEN  
AND WOMEN WERE PROFESSIONAL, EFFICIENT, AND ALWAYS HELPFUL.

AS A TERRITORIAL LEGISLATOR, I WAS PRIVILEGED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO CRIMINAL LAW. HERE AGAIN, I FOUND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DEPARTMENT TO BE EXTREMELY PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT. AS A U.S. SENATOR, IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO CARRY ON THIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.



THEREFORE, I HAVE BEEN VERY SADDENED BY THE CRITICAL  
RHETORIC OF RECENT WEEKS. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT MANY IN  
OUR COMMUNITY, AFTER HAVING SEEN AND HEARD THESE CRITICAL  
WORDS, MUST HAVE CONCLUDED THAT AT BEST, THE MEN AND WOMEN  
OF THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT ARE INEPT, STUPID AND  
INEFFICIENT, AND AT WORST, IN LEAGUE WITH THE MOB.

IN PREPARING FOR THIS MORNING'S MEETING, I  
CONFERRED WITH THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.  
THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ME BY THE BUREAU, WHICH I AM ABOUT  
TO SHARE WITH YOU IS PART OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND IS  
INCLUDED IN THE UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS OF THE FBI FOR 1984.

IN 1984, IN CITIES OF COMPARABLE SIZE, THE CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF HONOLULU WAS THE LOWEST. HONOLULU, WITH A POPULATION OF 810,772 HAD A CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF 44,560. WASHINGTON, D.C. HAD A CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF 53,524. SAN FRANCISCO HAD A CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF 59,896. BALTIMORE HAD A CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF 65,363, AND PHOENIX HAD A CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF 71,279.

HONOLULU NOT ONLY HAD THE LOWEST CRIME INDEX TOTAL OF THE CITIES LISTED, BUT ALSO THE SMALLEST POLICE FORCE --- 1,645 IN 1984. IN 1984, THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C., WITH A CRIME INDEX OF 9,000 HIGHER THAN HONOLULU, HAD A METROPOLITAN FORCE OF 3,866, TOGETHER WITH THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE (GSA) FORCE OF 820, THE SUPREME COURT POLICE OF 62, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS POLICE OF 138, THE U.S. PARK POLICE OF 471, AND THE WHITE HOUSE UNIFORMED POLICE OF 973, TOGETHER WITH THE CAPITOL POLICE FORCE OF 1,150 -- FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 7,480.

ALL OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE IN UNIFORM WITH SIDE ARMS  
AND BADGES WITH THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST AND, IF NECESSARY,  
KILL.

HONOLULU, WITH A POLICE FORCE OF 1,645 MEN AND WOMEN  
IN UNIFORM HAD A CRIME INDEX OF 44,560 AND THE D.C.  
POLICE FORCE WITH 7,480 HAD A CRIME INDEX OF 53,524.

1984  
THE VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 100,000 IN METROPOLITAN

AREAS OF COMPARABLE SIZE:

HONOLULU HAD A RATE OF 240.5 -- THE LOWEST IN THE COMPARATIVE  
STUDY.

GREENSBORO/WINSTON-SALEM	-- 455.9
NASHVILLE	-- 463.6
RICHMOND	-- 507.7
DAYTON	-- 516.0
MEMPHIS	--1040.6

*IN 1984*  
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THEN, OF THE CITIES OF COMPARABLE SIZE, HONOLULU  
HAD THE LOWEST OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING RATIO. THE  
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT ARE AMONG  
THE BEST DISCIPLINED AND BEST TRAINED IN THE NATION.  
THE CITIZENS OF HAWAII ARE FORTUNATE IN NOT HAVING  
TRIGGER-HAPPY OFFICERS, WHO APPEAR TO BE COMMON PLACE  
IN OTHER CITIES.

MOST OF OUR TV VIEWERS, IN WATCHING SHOWS LIKE HILL STREET BLUES, MacGRUDER AND LOUD, CAGNEY AND LACY, AND T. J. HOOKER NOTE THAT ALL THE PATROL OFFICERS HAVE PARTNERS, AND MOST OF THE STORIES EVOLVE AROUND THESE PARTNERSHIPS. I AM ALSO CERTAIN THAT MOST OF THESE TV VIEWERS ASSUME THAT THIS IS THE SITUATION IN HONOLULU. IN HONOLULU, WE GET THE WORK OF TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE. THERE ARE NO PARTNERS IN THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT.



HONOLULU IS A PORT CITY AND AN INTERNATIONAL  
CROSSROADS, BUT OUR SMALL POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN ABLE TO  
KEEP OUR CRIME INDEX THE LOWEST OF ALL CITIES OF  
COMPARABLE SIZE. NOTING THE EFFICIENCY AND DISCIPLINE OF OUR FORCE,  
YOU WOULD JUSTIFIABLY EXPECT OUR MEN AND WOMEN TO BE  
THE BEST PAID.

ACCORDING TO THE 1985 MUNICIPAL YEARBOOK, THE STARTING PAY FOR UNIFORMED PATROLMEN IN HONOLULU IS \$18,312 AND THE MAXIMUM PAY IS \$22,348. IN SAN FRANCISCO, THE STARTING PAY OF \$24,726 IS HIGHER THAN OUR MAXIMUM AND THE SAN FRANCISCO MAXIMUM PAY IS \$28,626 -- A PAY MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT RECEIVED BY MOST H.P.D. SERGEANTS. IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WITH 7,480 UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS AND A CRIME INDEX HIGHER THAN HONOLULU, BEGINNING PAY IS \$19,850 AND THEIR MAXIMUM PAY IS \$28,548.

I AM CERTAIN YOU HAVE CONCLUDED BY NOW THAT THE  
LOW PAY SCALE IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO PATROL OFFICERS  
BUT INVOLVES EVERY CATEGORY -- SGTS., LIEUTENANTS,  
CAPTAINS, MAJORS AND CHIEF. WE HAVE THE LOWEST-PAID POLICE  
PERSONNEL AS COMPARED TO OFFICERS IN OTHER CITIES OF  
COMPARABLE SIZE.

AND SO, INSTEAD OF BEING CRITICAL OF OUR POLICE FORCE,  
WE SHOULD BE COMMENDING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM.  
I CAN ONLY EXPRESS MY AMAZEMENT IN AND GRATITUDE TO  
OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM FOR WORKING UNDER DIFFICULT,  
DANGEROUS AND TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES FOR \$18,312 BEGINNING PAY  
AND A MAXIMUM OF \$22,348. I AM ALMOST EMBARRASSED TO TELL  
YOU THAT MY CLERK TYPIST IS BETTER PAID. IN FACT, I HAVE  
ON MY STAFF, TWO PERSONS WHOSE SALARIES EXCEED THAT OF  
THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ORIGINALLY, I WAS PREPARED TO PRESENT A STATEMENT  
THAT WAS RELEVANT TO THE THEME OF THIS CONFERENCE OF  
"PSYCHOLOGY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT". HOWEVER, I JUST  
COULD NOT RESIST THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.  
I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO CONVEY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN  
IN UNIFORM MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR  
COMMUNITY. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT "LUCKY I LIVE IN HONOLULU".

-END-