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Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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STATEMENT FROM U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

For Matt Kelly, USA Today

“The majority is in agreement on the new rules involving earmarks, and I support those new rules. During my tenure in Congress, I have consistently disclosed the earmarks that I have persuaded my colleagues to support and include in funding measures.

“One of my key responsibilities as Hawaii’s senior United States Senator is to respond to the unique needs and circumstances of my constituency. It is a constituency that lives in an island state, and which does not have the benefit of the interstate infrastructure available to the continental mainland states – the Lower 48. These constituents also live in a state with the highest concentration of endangered animal and plant species, which they treasure and which they believe must be protected.

“The Executive Branch does not have exclusive authority on what is and is not needed in Hawaii. If that were the case, there would be no need for the Legislative Branch as lawmakers would simply be a rubber stamp for the White House.

“If a particular program was not requested by the Administration – such as Native Hawaiian health and education, crystal meth interdiction and prevention, placing more pristine lands into conservation, and growing a high-tech sector in Hawaii – critics would consider them to be ‘pork.’

“However, I believe it is my responsibility to do my best to ensure that the needs of Hawaii’s residents are brought to the attention of Congress, and, to the greatest extent possible, addressed and satisfied.

“Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder – so, too, is ‘pork.’ ”

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



INOUYE RESPONDS TO NCL ANNOUNCEMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D.C. – In response to Norwegian Cruise Line’s announcement of the temporary withdrawal of its third ship, the Pride of Hawaii, from the Hawaii market, effective February 2008, United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye stated:

“I am proud of the great strides made, through the robust growth of a cruise ship sector, to further diversify Hawaii’s tourism industry, making our island state the fastest growing domestic cruise destination in North America. Since NCL America’s entrance into the market in 2004, Hawaii’s cruise capacity has quadrupled.

“There is no doubt that I am disappointed with NCL’s announcement to temporarily withdraw the Pride of Hawaii from Hawaii waters. It was a very difficult decision that President and CEO Colin Veitch had to make for the good of the overall company as he and his corporate team work to further grow demand in the Hawaii market. I respect his decision and look forward to the day that we will be able to welcome the Pride of Hawaii back to Hawaii’s shores, hopefully in the not too distant future.”

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TRIBUTE TO JOHN SILBER
April 13, 2007

VIDEO MESSAGE BY U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

I am greatly honored to appear before everyone today to talk about my esteemed friend, Dr. John Silber. My only regret is that I cannot be with you to share in this celebration. In the United States Senate, every Senator calls another as "my friend." Often, we say it during periods of debate to Senators with opposing viewpoints. When passions are high, the term "my friend" is often not said with much meaning or truth. John -- I can say this unequivocally -- you are my friend.

Some of you may be asking how a Senator from Hawaii came to know John Silber and care so much about Boston University. Well, my good friend Senator Ted Kennedy, and he is my good friend, was persistent in asking me to come see what John Silber and a group of scholars were doing at Boston University. They were working on an emerging technology called "photonics." And it was John Silber's vision that photonics would be vital to our national security and the high-tech industry, and enable the United States to maintain its competitive advantage in a global economy.

John had a vision to create the Photonics Center at Boston University. It would not be like other academic laboratories. The Photonics Center would create a vital pipeline to translate pioneering photonics research into commercially and militarily viable prototypes. The Photonics Center would actually produce and deliver products beneficial to society, whether the applications were in medicine, manufacturing, or in strengthening our national defense.

John shared with me this vision for excellence at the Photonics Center, and he asked for my support and the support of the entire Congress. As the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I was so excited to hear of a laboratory that wanted to create and deliver prototypes rather than just perform more science projects. Our men and women in uniform need an institution like the Photonics Center that is constantly pushing the envelope on technological breakthroughs, and, more importantly, thinking of ways to help turn these innovations into tools our troops can use.

The Photonics Center has enabled small businesses and academia to partner in this groundbreaking technology. Cutting-edge research, development, and production are now taking place in the university arena, which pays dividends not only to the BU community, and to Massachusetts, but to the nation as a whole. The Photonics Center has become a great incubator that will change consumer products, health care, and defense systems for generations to come. John's commitment to excellence has meant that the federal dollars provided to BU have been a most worthy investment for our nation.

I was proud to help cut the ribbon on the Photonics Center in 1997. Ten years later, I am

grateful for the Center's work on behalf of our men and women in uniform.
John, you were correct about the benefits the Photonics Center would provide our nation.

To cite a few successes: the Center will soon finish work on the Red Owl robot, which promises to save the lives of many troops by using photonic technologies to detect sniper fire; the Center has pioneered the mirrors necessary for laser communications, a technology that is rapidly growing in use for our military; and the Center has developed a laser that is leading to great advances in curing the debilitating symptoms of glaucoma. You have made me look like a smart man by agreeing to partner with Boston University and Senator Kennedy to build the Photonics Center.

In closing, I look forward to working with you and Boston University for at least another 10 years. So, to my friend, John Silber, I again congratulate you on this great occasion. Aloha and God bless.

**FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT
STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE**

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

FOR FRED LOVE, STEPHENS MEDIA WASHINGTON BUREAU

“Senator Craig is entitled to his opinion.

“But please allow me to cite the following facts, which I believe make for a convincing argument which cannot be ignored.

“Between 1934 and Philippine independence in 1946, the United States retained certain powers over the Philippines, then a U.S. possession. These rights included the right to call into the service of the U.S. military those forces organized by the Commonwealth government. That occurred on July 26, 1941, by order of President Roosevelt. The Filipinos who served were entitled to full veterans’ benefits by reason of their active service with our armed forces. Hundreds were wounded and many more died in battle.

“Furthermore, shortly after Japan’s surrender, the Congress passed legislation that sent Filipino troops to occupy enemy lands and to oversee military installations.

“However, in 1946, two laws were passed that betrayed our Filipino allies. As a result, Filipino veterans who fought in the service of the United States were now precluded from receiving veterans’ benefits that had been available to them before 1946, and that are available to all other veterans of the U.S. military, regardless of race, national origin, or citizenship status.

“By denying Filipino veterans their benefits, we are denying the reality of their service, their bravery, and their willingness to answer our call to arms.

“What happened 61 years ago was not right; it was shameful and disgraceful. My Filipino Veterans Equity Act will correct this injustice. The bill has more to do with fairness and dignity – core American values – than it does with money.”

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO SET UP
'FORWARD BASE' IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN ASIA-PACIFIC
DISEASE DETECTION AND RESPONSE**

Thursday, April 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that he has been informed by the Director of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that it plans to establish a field station in Hawaii that will play a crucial role in fighting public health threats, including infectious diseases.

“Dr. Julie Gerberding said this field station will serve as a forward base to strengthen emerging disease detection and response systems for the entire Asia-Pacific region, and Hawaii is uniquely situated for this purpose,” Senator Inouye stated. “Preliminary discussions indicated that the CDC favors assigning at least two specialists to Hawaii initially, and one would be an epidemiologist working on avian flu.

“The research and international tracking efforts that will be done at the field station will be extremely helpful in preventing and combating potential public health threats.

“Furthermore, this CDC field station will offer partnering opportunities with the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, Tripler Army Medical Center, the Hawaii State Department of Health, and other local medical and health organizations.

“While the funding and the location of the field station still need to be worked out, it is clear that the CDC is committed to expanding its Asia-Pacific focus with Hawaii having a key role.”

This “forward base” would not be the first CDC presence in Hawaii. Several years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at Senator Inouye’s request, established a small occupational health center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. It has taken the lead in addressing the public health implications of volcano emissions and childhood asthma.

The Centers for Disease Control and prevention is the world’s leader in addressing all of the complex health-related issues involving bioterrorism, infectious diseases, and natural disasters. Its scientific and clinical laboratory expertise is unrivaled.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Mike Yuen
202-246-3463

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U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
DANIEL K. INOUE, CHAIRMAN

Contact: Jenilee Keefe (202) 224-7824

Chairman Inouye Introduces Identity Theft Prevention Bill

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), along with Committee Vice Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Consumer Affairs, Insurance and Automotive Safety Subcommittee Chairman Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), and Senator Gordon H. Smith (R-Ore.) introduced the Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2007 earlier today, which authorizes the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to protect consumers from identity theft and directly hold data breachers accountable for their actions.

“Americans have long demanded better protection for their sensitive, personal information. We must ensure that American Consumers feel confident that our government is doing all it can to protect their personal data.” said Chairman Inouye. “Consumer protection is our number one goal. The Identity Theft Prevention Act not only achieves this, but also empowers the consumer to act in the event of a security breach.”

The Identity Theft Prevention of Act of 2007 requires the FTC to set standards to protect sensitive, personal information and to verify the identity of third parties seeking the information. The FTC must craft and issue final rules for third party identification within one year of enactment.

The bill also requires businesses from sole proprietors to large corporations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations that acquire, maintain, or utilize sensitive personal information to safeguard this information. With the exception of banks and brokers, who are regulated by other federal authorities, all violators may be fined up to \$11,000 per violation per day with no cap. Additionally, the bill obligates these businesses and

organizations to notify consumers of any security breaches in which there is a reasonable risk that the information may be used for identity theft.

Also under the Act, a consumer may place a security freeze on his or her consumer credit report. Once a consumer places a freeze on his or her credit report, no credit reporting agency may release any information from the consumer's credit report, unless the consumer gives explicit authorization.

The Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2007 is modeled, in part, on S. 1408, the Identity Theft Prevention Act, which reported out of the Committee during the 109th Congress.

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April 23, 2007

To: Senator

Fr: Mike

Re: Your interview at 2 p.m. today for the documentary on Patsy Mink

The filmmaker behind this project is Punahou graduate Kimberlee Bassford. She is producing an hourlong documentary on Patsy Mink, titled *Ahead of the Majority*, for distribution on national public television.

In particular, she is interested in talking to you about the political climate in Hawaii during the 1950s, when both you and Congresswoman Mink first launched your political careers, as well as your working relationship with Congresswoman Mink over the years.

Some of the points Bassford wishes to touch on include:

Rise of the Hawaii Democratic Party

Hawaii political landscape prior to 1954; the 1954 Democratic revolution (how and why it happened, what issues were championed); leaders within the Party (John Burns, Tom Gill, etc.); role of the AJAs (impact of World War II veterans) and the labor unions; your experience getting involved in politics; Mink's early involvement and where she fit in; what politics was like back then.

Working with Mink

Serving with her in the 1956 Territorial House and 1958 Territorial Senate (issues she championed such as "equal pay for equal work," her reputation among the other legislators, other women who served back then); 1959 U.S. House race (how you each ran your campaigns, what it was like to go up against her in the primary, how she reacted to your win); 1960 Democratic National Convention (how her speech on civil rights was received); Public reaction to her position on the Vietnam War; work you did together on behalf of the national Asian American community; being an Asian American in Congress (from your own perspective, what it might have been like for her); Mink's reputation in Congress (how she got along with her colleagues, criticisms others had of her).

Reflections on Mink

How she embodied the spirit of Hawaii; the ways in which she was a successful legislator and politician; the ways in which she was unsuccessful; Mink's legacy (what she has left us, what America and Hawaii have lost with her passing).

For this film, which has the endorsement of the Mink family, interviews have already been secured with former House members Norman Mineta, Pat Schroeder and Andy Jacobs, longtime Hawaii Democratic stalwarts Elmer Cravalho and Walter Heen, and Honolulu Advertiser political reporter Jerry Burris. They are also seeking interviews with House Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Representatives Lynn Woolsey, Maxine Waters and George Miller.

Accompanying Basswood are associate producer Robin Lung, cinematographer Michael Chin, soundman Paul Rusnak, and production assistant Daniel Mulhearn.

Attach is a biography of Patsy Mink.

DKI'S POSITION ON MILITARY TRAINING AT MAKUA VALLEY

Talking Points

Senator Inouye favors training in Makua Valley that is environmentally and culturally sensitive.

Makua Valley remains an important use for military readiness training on Oahu, and cannot be replaced entirely. It is especially important for company-size, live-fire training that goes beyond Stryker training.

There are two significant reasons why establishing similar training capabilities at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island are not feasible – cost and time. It would be prohibitively expensive – \$600 million, according to the U.S. Army. Plus, more time – days, even weeks – would be needed to ship or fly troops, equipment, and materiel from Oahu to Pahakuloa for training.

If training was shifted entirely from Makua to the mainland, it will present another hardship to our troops – by extending their time away their families if they are to receive training and equipping in another state.

Hawaii is strategically located. Therefore, we must do our best to appropriately use the few sites available in Hawaii for readiness training.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contact: Mike Yuen
202-224-3934

INOUE HAILS LEGISLATION THAT SETS 'NEW DIRECTION' FOR IRAQ

Thursday, April 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye today joined the majority of his colleagues, and voted to pass the Fiscal Year 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The measure sets the goal of withdrawing most U.S. combat troops from Iraq by March 31, 2008.

The legislation cleared its final legislative hurdle today when the Senate voted 51 to 47 for its passage, but it faces a threatened veto by the President.

“I respectfully ask the President to reconsider his veto threat,” Senator Inouye said, noting – to cite just a few examples – that the bill appropriates \$4 billion more than what the President requested for the Department of Defense, \$1.2 billion more than what the President sought for mine-resistant vehicles, and more resources for soldiers who have suffered traumatic brain injuries.

“This bill provides the road map for a new direction for the war in Iraq, and it addresses the shortfalls in the President’s budget request,” said Senator Inouye, a combat veteran of World War II who received our nation’s highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor. “Today our forces are bogged down in Iraq, caught in the middle of a civil war. We need a change of plans, a new direction.

“This war has dragged on too long, longer than our involvement in World War II. Staying the course isn’t working, and I, for one, am not convinced it ever will. The

only way we can succeed in Iraq is if the Iraqis fundamentally change the dynamic. The language in the conference agreement which the Senate passed today embraces this idea by offering a new plan.

“That plan is embodied in the goal of redeploying most of our forces from Iraq by March 31, 2008. This is a goal; it doesn’t mandate that all the troops are removed. To the contrary, it allows that forces remain in Iraq to protect U.S. and coalition personnel.

“It also stipulates that U.S. forces can continue to train and equip the Iraqis, so that they can better defend themselves, and it directs that we may continue counter-terrorist operations in Iraq.

“This is a balanced plan.”

Senator Inouye added: “How many of us still truly believe if we remain in Iraq that we will emerge with a Jeffersonian democracy on the banks of the Tigris River? If Iraq is to succeed, it must assume responsibilities for its own destiny. It must decide if it wants to stop internecine warfare. We cannot do that for them.”

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U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Jenilee Keefe (202) 224-7824
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

America COMPETES Act Passes Senate

Bill Strengthens Math, Science Education and Research,

Inouye Provision Creates Mentoring Program for Women

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 26, 2007 – Last night, the United States Senate passed S. 761, the America COMPETES Act, a bill to expand basic research and development, and promote math and science education. The Act includes a provision authored by Commerce Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), an original cosponsor of the bill, which would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a mentoring program for women interested in science-based careers.

“In Hawaii, mentorship programs, such as the Women in Technology Program, have been very effective, and I am proud to base a national program on this model. We must do as much as we can to ensure that this country fully leverages all facets of our population and resources in maintaining our competitiveness,” said Chairman Inouye. “It is time for our nation to inspire a new generation of innovators.”

The act would direct the NSF to recruit and provide mentors for women interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The NSF would also provide grants to community colleges for appropriate training to allow women to enter higher-paying technical jobs in these fields.

The America COMPETES Act is a bipartisan legislative response to the recommendations proposed in the National Academy of Sciences “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” report and the Council on Competitiveness’ “Innovate America” report, which found a decline in U.S. student interest and performance in the fields of science, technology, mathematics, and engineering that could threaten the nation’s economic competitiveness.

“Our nation’s economic prosperity was founded on the drive of our students and the genius and

innovation of our researchers,” said Chairman Inouye. “We must give our students, teachers, and scientists the tools they need to succeed.”

The act would increase education partnerships funded by the NSF and the National Laboratories, and significantly increase funding to the NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. It would also direct the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to increase basic research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to promote leadership in the ocean and atmospheric research and education fields.

The America COMPETES Act is a joint effort of three Senate committees: Commerce; Health, Education Labor and Pensions; and Energy and Natural Resources. With 67 cosponsors, the bill enjoyed wide bi-partisan support. The Senate passed this measure by a vote of 88 to 8.

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