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# Chronological: East-West Center Dinner

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Chronological, Box SP14, Folder 72

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**TEXT NOT FOLLOWED IN ITS ENTIRETY**

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**East-West Center Dinner  
Friday, June 1, 2007**

**About forty-eight years ago there was a man, John Anthony Burns, who then was delegate to Congress, and a man from Texas, the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, Lyndon Johnson. They conferred and agreed upon the establishment of a center in the Territory of Hawaii where men and women of goodwill from the United States, the Pacific Basin and Asia could come together to discuss matters of mutual concern.**

**However, this idea did not follow the usual process of legislation. At that moment, the Senate was considering the reauthorization of the Foreign Aid Bill. As majority leader, Johnson just stepped forward and said "I submit an amendment," and that was it. There was no committee hearing. There was no bill. There were no reports, minority or majority. The State Department was blind sided. They had no idea that a center was about to be established. They did not want it. They did not ask for it, but there it was. Naturally then, every attempt was made to rid the State Department of this activity. Then we got the funding. It was a monumental earmark.**

**When the Center buildings were completed, the State Department made an offer to then governor of Hawaii, Bill Quinn, "Look, we will give you these buildings and an additional \$10 million. Take over this whole operation. Frankly, we want no part in it." But the governor was a visionary man and simply said "No thank you." He could have very easily accepted the buildings, added them to the University of Hawaii campus, and accepted the \$10 million to be used in any fashion that he desired. That would have been the end. But thanks to Bill Quinn that did not happen.**

**Those of you who are aware of the history of the Center will recall that during the first two decades, the succeeding administrations and the State Department did not**

request funds for the Center because it was not on their list. It was not of any priority. But over the years, those of you who have been involved steadfastly followed the vision, and followed the mission that was set forth in the amendment to establish a Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between the East and West.

We have now a world-class institution. An institution that has a place in the halls of education and understanding. In fact, as a matter of historic footnote, there was a time when our relations with Indonesia were next to nil. Our ambassador was recalled. There were no exchanges of any formal conversation. They cut off all ties with the United States. They would not permit any of their citizens to become Fulbright Scholars, but they sent men and women to the East-West Center. The same thing with Burma. America's relationship with Burma over the years has been hot and cold. At one time, they sent our ambassador home and closed our consulates. But they sent students to the East-West Center. They were convinced that this was a unique spot on the globe where men and women could freely discuss the issues of the day.

Congress created a unique national organization to serve the long-term foreign policy goals of our nation. It is a neutral, independent educational institution that has earned the credibility and trust of Asian and Pacific nations. As such, this Center must be responsive and sensitive to the changing developments in the Asia-Pacific area. It must integrate cooperative and practical hands-on research, education, training, dialogue, and outreach to bring diverse parties together – students, educators, researchers, government officials, men and women of business, and journalists – to develop this close relationship.

**Finnell, Virginia (Inouye)**

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**From:** MacDonald, Beverly (Inouye)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2007 9:18 AM  
**To:** Finnell, Virginia (Inouye)  
**Subject:** FW: one last speech from this trip  
**Attachments:** East-West Center dinner speech.wpd

fyi

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**From:** Daly, Sara (Inouye)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2007 9:34 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Beverly (Inouye); Yuen, Mike (Inouye); Okubo, Jinny (Inouye)  
**Subject:** one last speech from this trip

Again, he did not use the entire text when he delivered it. So this is for the files only.

I will put in f

FILE COPY

**Okubo, Jinny (Inouye)**

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**From:** Daly, Sara (Inouye)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 06, 2007 3:34 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, Beverly (Inouye); Yuen, Mike (Inouye); Okubo, Jinny (Inouye)  
**Subject:** one last speech from this trip  
**Attachments:** East-West Center dinner speech.wpd

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