

Remarks of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, state convention

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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Amended ending

REMARKS OF U.S. SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII,

STATE CONVENTION

MAY 28, 1994

Thank you, Joe, for your kind words.

Fellow Democrats, ALOHA!

**Before I begin, I would like to seek your gracious
indulgence for a moment. I have this now-instinctive
compulsion that I just can't seem to shake. It has become
something that I sort of feel automatically compelled to say**

every time I'm around people:

Ahem. Yes . . . I am running for reelection to the United States Senate.

Okay. I feel better now.

You know, this may be convention heresy, but . . . My friends, if I told you that this was assuredly going to be a great election year for Democrats, I would be less than candid. However, if I told you that this was assuredly an election year that holds great opportunities for Democrats, I would be as truthful as I could possibly be.

And if we expect to realize the promise of those great

opportunities, then let's be brutally honest with ourselves.

Few of you would believe me if I told you that, right at this very moment, Strength in Unity was the prevailing thought in everyone's mind. But you had all best believe me when I tell you that, come September 18, it had better be.

Both inclusion and diversity have always been key to the philosophy, and therefore, the allure and the growth of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. And what has that given us?

STRENGTH!

Furthermore, our genuine willingness to exercise that

inclusion and encourage that diversity within the umbrella
of the larger purpose -- the good of Hawaii -- is the reason
we have

endured as the party of the people. And what has that
given us?

UNITY!

I hope with every fiber of my being that you fully
appreciate the fact that this is the Fortieth Anniversary of
the Democratic Revolution of 1954 -- because I have a
critical challenge for all of you. After four decades of
creating a better Hawaii through Strength in Unity, we still

talk the talk. BUT, my friends, November 8, 1994 will show whether we can still walk the walk.

You know, as jokingly as it may have been phrased, I started by saying that I was running for reelection to the Senate this year. Well, there isn't a person in this room who doesn't know that there would have been no funny beginning to this speech if there had no serious closing to the Campaign of 1990.

On that unforgettable November 6th, you helped send a resounding message from every polling place. From Niihau School and the Kekaha Neighborhood Center to

Kau High and the Mountain View Gym, it roared across this State. And it kept on going -- until it reverberated throughout the hallways of the White House itself -- where The-Powers-That-Be, at the time, had committed all they could to a Democratic Senatorial defeat.

That was a remarkable feat you achieved on my behalf. And I will be forever grateful. But let us never forget something else very, very significant. Throughout nearly the entire course of that campaign, I had never been more than even in the polls. Sometimes, I was down by double-digits. Now, there

is no way in the world that those numbers could have been even close to true, if generally-Democratic and Democratic voters had not been leaning the other way.

So, we set about reminding them of the fundamental principles of the Democratic Party and why they had long-supported those ideals. We reminded them what the exercise of those principles had meant for their grandparents and parents . . . and for themselves. We reminded them what continuing to build upon those principles meant for the future of their children and grandchildren. We reminded them that Democrat Dan

Akaka was the candidate who would best fight for and further those principles in the United States Senate.

Well, they listened; they remembered; and they came back.

The point here is quite simple:

If the Party can do that for Dan Akaka, and rally the electorate at-large, then the Party can do that for its candidates in November, by rallying itself for the cause.

1994 is a year of both political upheaval and political opportunity, the likes of which we have not seen in quite some time. The one constant upon which we can depend --

the one constant upon which the future of this state

depends -- is that the Democratic Party and the people who carry its noble banner offer Hawaii's best hope.

The right of everyone to the opportunities of life; that is the premise that gave us birth. The chance for anyone to become a part of making those opportunities available to others; that is what made us the Party of the People.

The ability to accept and

embrace diversity in pursuit of the common goal; that is why we have endured.

If I started this speech harshly, it is only because, next

to Millie and my own family, I care about the well-being of
the Democratic ohana more than anything else. And as
with any special family: There must be both compassion
and candor; love and toughness; independence and
solidarity.

I **have** true confidence in your commitment to the
common good of the Democratic ohana and all your
brothers and sisters who are a part of it. It is an **abiding**
faith, because I **have been** its grateful beneficiary.

The paths the Democratic Party chooses are **never**
easy, because the goals we pursue are not.

**The paths the Democratic Party seeks out should
never be easy, because as long as the way is still difficult
for others, we cannot be comfortable ourselves.**

**And while the paths of the Democratic Party are many
and varied, our spirits walk hand in hand EVERY
STEP of the way.**

**That is how it has always been. That is how it always
must be.**

Mahalo and God bless you all!