

# Chronological: Mid-Pacific Institute Commencement, Honolulu, 1985-06-01

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers  
Speeches, Box SP7, Folder 8  
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**news from**

# **Senator DANIEL K. INOUE**

**topic:** SPEECH BY SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE  
MID-PACIFIC INSTITUTE COMMENCEMENT

**date:** Saturday, June 1, 1985 - 4:30 pm  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**release date:** Saturday, June 1, 1985

This is your day--the day you looked forward to; the day your parents dreamed about. You have plowed through your final exams--the tension, anxiety and fear of these finals are images of the past.

During the years preceding this glorious day you have studied this land, and this Earth, and learned of its strengths and its weaknesses.

--You have studied the evil nature of intolerance and racism.

--You have been made to sense the plight of the poor and the hungry.

--You are acquainted with the constant assault on our environment.

--You realize the dangers of drugs.

Yes, you have experienced your dark days so I believe that on this day you deserve to be happy, be optimistic and be able to walk into the future with joy and confidence. You have much to be thankful for, because you enter a society abundantly blessed with prosperity and good will.

Ours is a nation unique among nations. It is a good and great land, a land that permits you to criticize and demonstrate against the government, a freedom unknown to more than 80 percent of the people of our world.

In this good land, you will have the right to choose leaders or if you foolishly prefer, you can sit back and allow others to choose your leaders.

This is a good land that will give you the right to pray as you wish to your chosen god or many gods, or not pray at all.

This is a good land where, for the first time in the history of mankind, more than half of its young people are going on to higher education.

This is a mighty land of immigrants, a land that brought forth people like Helen Keller, Susan B. Anthony, John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and provided a place for giants like Albert Einstein, the great architect I.M. Pei, great conductors Zubin Mehta and Seiji Ozawa, and dozens of Nobel laureates too numerous to mention.

The land you inherit is one that presents opportunity, offers freedom and promises equality. You will inherit a strong land that has been tested by war and human weaknesses for over 200 years.

You will go forth into a land that recognizes, and strives to complete, the unfinished business of democracy, of poverty and hunger, of racial and religious intolerance, of ignorance and illiteracy. You have the chance to take part in this business and to help your fellow men and women eradicate these curses that afflict our land.

You will inherit a land of great mountains, mighty rivers, lovely beaches and awesome glaciers. It will remain a good land if you wish it to be a good land, and actively work towards this end.

There is much good in our land, there is much joy in our land, so on this day of happiness, I wish to share with you the words of an unknown poet:

Count your garden by the flowers  
Never by the leaves that fall.  
Count your days by the sunny hours  
Without remembering clouds at all.  
Count your nights by stars, not shadows  
Count your life by smiles, not tears  
And on this beautiful April afternoon  
Count your age by friends, not years.

Congratulations and godspeed.

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Congratulations and godspeed.

MID-PACIFIC INSTITUTE COMMENCEMENT  
JUNE 1, 1985 SATURDAY - 4:30 p.m.  
Honolulu, Hawaii

THIS IS YOUR DAY--THE DAY YOU LOOKED FORWARD  
TO; THE DAY YOUR PARENTS DREAMED ABOUT. YOU HAVE  
PLOWED THROUGH YOUR FINAL EXAMS--THE TENSION, ANXIETY  
AND FEAR OF THESE FINALS ARE IMAGES OF THE PAST.

DURING THE YEARS PRECEDING THIS GLORIOUS DAY  
YOU HAVE STUDIED THIS <sup>nature</sup>~~LAND~~, AND THIS EARTH, AND  
LEARNED OF ITS STRENGTHS AND ITS WEAKNESSES.

--YOU HAVE STUDIED THE EVIL NATURE OF INTOLERANCE AND  
RACISM.

--YOU HAVE BEEN MADE TO SENSE THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR  
AND THE HUNGRY.

--YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THE CONSTANT ASSAULT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT.

--YOU REALIZE THE DANGERS OF DRUGS.

*- You have received the finest drug available*  
YES, YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED YOUR DARK DAYS SO

I BELIEVE THAT ON THIS DAY YOU DESERVE TO BE HAPPY, BE OPTIMISTIC AND BE ABLE TO WALK INTO THE FUTURE WITH JOY AND CONFIDENCE. YOU HAVE MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR, BECAUSE YOU ENTER A SOCIETY ABUNDANTLY BLESSED WITH PROSPERITY AND GOOD WILL.



Two quotations have had a profound influence  
upon my political career:  
-3-  
Judge Learned Hand: 1944:  
Thomas Jefferson: 1776:

OURS IS A NATION UNIQUE AMONG NATIONS. IT  
IS A GOOD AND GREAT LAND, A LAND THAT PERMITS <sup>US</sup> ~~YOU~~ TO  
CRITICIZE AND DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, A  
FREEDOM UNKNOWN TO MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLES  
OF OUR WORLD.

IN THIS GOOD LAND, <sup>WE</sup> ~~YOU WILL~~ HAVE THE RIGHT  
<sup>FREELY</sup>  
TO CHOOSE LEADERS OR IF <sup>WE</sup> ~~YOU~~ FOOLISHLY PREFER, <sup>WE</sup> ~~YOU~~ CAN  
<sup>^</sup>  
SIT BACK AND ALLOW OTHERS TO CHOOSE YOUR LEADERS.

THIS IS A GOOD LAND THAT <sup>US</sup> ~~YOU~~ GIVES ~~YOU~~ THE  
<sup>WE</sup>  
RIGHT TO PRAY AS ~~YOU~~ WISH TO ~~YOUR~~ CHOSEN GOD OR MANY  
GODS, OR NOT PRAY AT ALL.

THIS IS A GOOD LAND WHERE, FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND, MORE THAN HALF OF ~~THE~~ OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GOING ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

THIS IS A MIGHTY LAND OF IMMIGRANTS, A LAND  
THAT BROUGHT FORTH PEOPLE LIKE HELEN KELLER, SUSAN B.  
ANTHONY, JOHN KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND  
PROVIDED A PLACE FOR GIANTS LIKE ALBERT EINSTEIN, THE  
GREAT ARCHITECT I.M. PEI, GREAT CONDUCTORS ZUBIN MEHTA  
AND SEIJI OZAWA, AND DOZENS OF NOBEL LAUREATES TOO  
NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

*ed from our founding fathers*

WE  
THE LAND ~~YOU~~ INHERIT IS ONE THAT PRESENTS

OPPORTUNITY, OFFERS FREEDOM AND PROMISES EQUALITY.

WE HAVE *ed*  
~~YOU WILL~~ INHERIT A STRONG LAND THAT HAS BEEN TESTED BY

WAR AND HUMAN WEAKNESSES FOR OVER 200 YEARS.

*so let us*  
~~YOU WILL~~ GO FORTH INTO A LAND THAT

RECOGNIZES, AND STRIVES TO COMPLETE, THE UNFINISHED

BUSINESS OF DEMOCRACY, OF POVERTY AND HUNGER, OF

RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE, OF IGNORANCE AND

ILLITERACY. *We* ~~YOU~~ HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN THIS *endeavor*

~~BUSINESS~~ AND ~~TO~~ HELP ~~TO~~ OUR FELLOW MEN AND WOMEN

ERADICATE THESE CURSES THAT AFFLICT OUR LAND.

<sup>We</sup>  
~~YOU WILL~~ INHERIT A LAND OF GREAT MOUNTAINS,

MIGHTY RIVERS, LOVELY BEACHES AND AWESOME GLACIERS.

IT WILL REMAIN A GOOD LAND IF <sup>WE</sup>  
~~YOU~~ WISH IT TO BE A GOOD  
LAND, AND ACTIVELY WORK TOWARDS THIS END.

THERE IS MUCH GOOD IN OUR LAND, ~~THERE IS~~  
~~MUCH JOY IN OUR LAND, SO ON THIS DAY OF HAPPINESS, I~~  
~~WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU THE WORDS OF AN UNKNOWN POET.~~

COUNT YOUR GARDEN BY THE FLOWERS

NEVER BY THE LEAVES THAT FALL.

COUNT YOUR DAYS BY THE SUNNY HOURS

WITHOUT REMEMBERING CLOUDS AT ALL.

COUNT YOUR NIGHTS BY STARS, NOT SHADOWS

COUNT YOUR LIFE BY SMILES, NOT TEARS

AND ON THIS BEAUTIFUL <sup>JUNE</sup> ~~APRIL~~ AFTERNOON

COUNT YOUR AGE BY FRIENDS, NOT YEARS.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GODSPEED.