

Chronological: "Princess Pauahi's Magnificent Dream", Kamehameha School 100th Convocation, Kawaiahao Church

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUE

topic: PRINCESS PAUHI'S MAGNIFICENT DREAM"
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HONOLULU, HAWAII -- She was the last descendant of the Royal Line of Kamehameha, and as such, she assumed the royal responsibility of devoting her life to the well being of her people. On the last day of October 1883, a year before she died, Princess Pauahi affixed her seal to her will. This will contained a provision calling for the building and maintaining of two schools--one for the boys and one for girls--to be known as and called The Kamehameha Schools.

Four years later, the first of the Kamehameha Schools was dedicated. It was the Kamehameha School for Boys with 37 students and five teachers.

In order to appreciate her dream--her vision as manifested in her will--one must understand the turmoil and troubles of her day. During her lifetime, she witnessed the decline of her native Hawaiian population of 400,000 to fewer than 45,000. She had to almost helplessly witness her people being displaced by the rapid expansion and acceptance of western legal, political and economic systems which were completely foreign to the Hawaiians.

She saw how the "Great Mahele" tragically caused Hawaiians to be evicted from the land that they had occupied for generations.

When Princess Pauahi wrote her will, she did so with the hope that her worldly belongings could serve as an instrument for change to stop the physical and social decline of her people. Princess Pauahi was convinced that education was the force that could reverse the hopelessness of her people.

As we begin the observance of the centennial of the birth of the Kamehameha Schools, it would be well for all of us to ask ourselves the question: "was the magnificent dream of Princess Pauahi fulfilled?"

On November 4, 1887, the first day of school, there were 37 boys and five teachers. Today, the enrollment of students attending the Kamehameha Schools number 2,773 with 183 faculty members.

The first 12th grade class of 13 (10 boys and 3 girls) was graduated in 1924. Of the students, three went on to higher education. In the class of 1986, a class consisting of 359 graduates, 323 had made arrangements to enroll in colleges and universities.

Today, there are 31 educational programs at Kamehameha Schools, ranging from providing education to boarding students, financial assistance to students, to providing cultural programs and lecture series to the community-at-large. These programs also include all classes from kindergarten to 12th grade.

These are impressive statistics, and I am certain they must please the beloved Princess, but do these statistics suggest that the hopes of the Princess have been fulfilled? Let me cite a few other statistics:

--Today, the native Hawaiians are at the bottom of Hawaii's social and economic ladder; they have the highest level of poverty; they have the highest rate of unemployment, and, they have the lowest rate of education of any ethnic group in Hawaii. There are more high school drop outs per capita among native Hawaiians than in any other ethnic group. A disproportionately large segment of our prison population is native Hawaiians.

--Today, Hawaiians suffer the highest rate of cancer, diabetes, hypertension than any other ethnic groups, and sadly, the Hawaiians experience greater infant mortality rates than any other ethnic group in Hawaii. I can add a few more, but I believe these will suffice.

Obviously, the tragic statistics that haunted our beloved Princess Pauahi are still haunting us today. But, there is a bright light on this centennial convocation. We should recognize the efforts of the Trustees of the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate who have noted these tragic numbers and have done something about them.

Your Trustees, working together with members of Congress and with organizations such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Alu Like have been successful in including native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the Department of Labor Training and Employment Services.

These programs are designed to improve the economic well being of disadvantaged native Americans. As a direct result of the efforts of the Trustees of The Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, Congress will appropriate \$5 million to support the Kamehameha School/Bishop Estate to serve the pressing health care needs of the native Hawaiian children and their families.

These funds will be matched on a 50-50 basis by the Kamehameha Schools and the various state and county governmental agencies. It is expected that over the next five years, more than 15,000 at risk native Hawaiian children will be served.

--As a direct result of the efforts of your Trustees, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration of the federal government will be reviewing the findings of the U.S. Public Health Service Special Report on Hawaiian care needs and will come forth with a report on how to address these problems.

--The Kamehameha Elementary Education Program (KEEP) is now being given careful consideration by the U.S. Department of Education and is also the subject of a special report to the Congress by the Department.

--As a direct result of the efforts of your Trustees, the National Library Funds for Services and Construction will be statutorily set aside and reserved for programs for American Indians and native Hawaiians.

--As a direct result of the efforts of your Trustees, centers to provide maternal and child health care will be established throughout Hawaii.

Although present statistics are sad and tragic, steps are now being taken to correct them, and your Trustees, painfully cognizant of the dream of Princess Pauahi, have played a major role in taking steps to rectify and correct these numbers.

It is always dangerous to single out the work of one person, but in this case, I am certain that the Board of Trustees join me in recognizing and commending the outstanding work of one of them--Myron "Pinky" Thompson. I am certain that Princess Pauahi is pleased with the work of "Pinky" Thompson.

And, the Princess was obviously concerned about the involvement of her people in the western legal, political and economic systems. One of the Trustees, the Honorable William Richardson, was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii. The Speaker of the House, and also a Trustee, is of native Hawaiian ancestry--the Honorable Henry Peters. The President of the Senate, the Honorable Richard Wong is also of native Hawaiian ancestry. The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of First Hawaiian Bank, John Bellinger, is of native Hawaiian ancestry. The Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii, John Waihee is of native Hawaiian ancestry. The senior Congressman of Hawaii, Dan Akaka is of the Hawaiian ancestry.

Although the accomplishments of these distinguished persons of native Hawaiian ancestry would please Princess Pauahi, I doubt that she would look upon them as the fulfillment of her magnificent dream. There is much more to be done, but it pleases me as a citizen of Hawaii to know that your Trustees have taken up the responsibility of fulfilling the Princess' dream and doing something about it.

I am certain that a hundred years from now, your convocation speaker will have a much brighter report to make on the spectacular changes that have been brought about by the magnificent will of the beloved Princess Bernice Pauahi.

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SPEECH by Senator Daniel K. Inouye

The Kamehameha Schools

100th Convocation

Kawaiahao Church

September 7, 1986

"PRINCESS PAUHI'S MAGNIFICANT DREAM"

SHE WAS THE LAST DESCENDANT OF THE ROYAL LINE OF
KAMEHAMEHA, AND AS SUCH, SHE ASSUMED THE ROYAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF DEVOTING HER LIFE TO THE WELL BEING OF HER PEOPLE. ON THE
LAST DAY OF OCTOBER 1883, A YEAR BEFORE SHE DIED, PRINCESS
PAUHI AFFIXED HER SEAL TO HER WILL. THIS WILL CONTAINED
A PROVISION CALLING FOR THE BUILDING AND MAINTAINING OF
TWO SCHOOLS--ONE FOR THE BOYS AND ONE FOR GIRLS--TO BE KNOWN
AS AND CALLED THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS.

FOUR YEARS LATER, THE FIRST OF THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS
WAS DEDICATED. IT WAS THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOL FOR BOYS
WITH 37 STUDENTS AND FIVE TEACHERS.

IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE HER DREAM--HER VISION AS
MANIFESTED IN HER WILL--ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE TURMOIL
AND TROUBLES OF HER DAY. DURING HER LIFETIME, SHE WITNESSED
THE DECLINE OF HER NATIVE HAWAIIAN POPULATION OF 400,000
TO FEWER THAN 45,000. SHE HAD TO ALMOST HELPLESSLY
WITNESS HER PEOPLE BEING DISPLACED BY THE RAPID EXPANSION
AND ACCEPTANCE OF WESTERN LEGAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
SYSTEMS WHICH WERE COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO THE HAWAIIANS.

SHE SAW HOW THE "GREAT MAHELE" TRAGICALLY CAUSED HAWAIIANS TO BE EVICTED FROM THE LAND THAT THEY HAD OCCUPIED FOR GENERATIONS.

WHEN PRINCESS PAUHI WROTE HER WILL, SHE DID SO WITH THE HOPE THAT HER WORLDLY BELONGINGS COULD SERVE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE TO STOP THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DECLINE OF HER PEOPLE. PRINCESS PAUHI WAS CONVINCED THAT EDUCATION WAS THE FORCE THAT COULD REVERSE THE HOPELESSNESS OF HER PEOPLE.

AS WE BEGIN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE BIRTH OF THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS, IT WOULD BE
WELL FOR ALL OF US TO ASK OURSELVES THE QUESTION:
"WAS THE MAGNIFICANT DREAM OF PRINCESS PAUHI FULFILLED?"

ON NOVEMBER 4, 1887, THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL,
THERE WERE 37 BOYS AND FIVE TEACHERS. TODAY, THE ENROLLMENT
OF STUDENTS ATTENDING THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS NUMBERS 2,773
WITH 183 FACULTY MEMBERS.

THE FIRST 12TH GRADE CLASS OF 13 (10 BOYS AND 3 GIRLS)
WAS GRADUATED IN 1924. OF THE STUDENTS, THREE WENT ON TO
HIGHER EDUCATION. IN THE CLASS OF 1986, A CLASS CONSISTING
OF 359 GRADUATES, ^{Q 90%} 323₁ HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENROLL IN
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

TODAY, THERE ARE 31 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS, RANGING FROM PROVIDING EDUCATION
TO BOARDING STUDENTS, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS,
TO PROVIDING CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND LECTURE SERIES TO THE
COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE. THESE PROGRAMS ALSO INCLUDE ALL
CLASSES FROM KINDERGARTEN TO 12TH GRADE.

THESE ARE IMPRESSIVE STATISTICS, AND I AM CERTAIN
THEY MUST PLEASE THE BELOVED PRINCESS, BUT DO THESE
STATISTICS SUGGEST THAT THE HOPES OF THE PRINCESS HAVE
BEEN FULFILLED? LET ME CITE A FEW OTHER STATISTICS:

-- TODAY, THE NATIVE HAWAIIANS ARE AT THE
BOTTOM OF HAWAII'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LADDER;
THEY HAVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF POVERTY;
THEY HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND,
THEY HAVE THE LOWEST RATE OF EDUCATION OF ANY
ETHNIC GROUP IN HAWAII. THERE ARE MORE HIGH SCHOOL
DROP OUTS PER CAPITA AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS THAN
IN ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP. A DISPROPORTIONATELY
LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR PRISON POPULATION IS NATIVE
HAWAIIANS.

--- TODAY, HAWAIIANS SUFFER THE HIGHEST RATE
OF CANCER, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION THAN ANY OTHER
ETHNIC GROUPS, AND SADLY, THE HAWAIIANS EXPERIENCE
GREATER INFANT MORTALITY RATES THAN ANY OTHER
ETHNIC GROUP IN HAWAII. I CAN ADD A FEW MORE,
BUT I BELIEVE THESE WILL SUFFICE.

OBVIOUSLY, THE TRAGIC STATISTICS THAT HAUNTED OUR
BELOVED PRINCESS PAUHI ARE STILL HAUNTING US TODAY.
BUT, THERE IS A BRIGHT LIGHT ON THIS CENTENNIAL CONVOCATION.
Today,
WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/BISHOP ESTATE WHO HAVE NOTED THESE TRAGIC
NUMBERS AND HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

YOUR TRUSTEES, WORKING TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
AND WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND ALU LIKE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN INCLUDING NATIVE
HAWAIIANS AS BENEFICIARIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

THESE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE

ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF DISADVANTAGED NATIVE AMERICANS.

*This program
is working*

4 AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF

THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/BISHOP ESTATE, CONGRESS WILL

APPROPRIATE \$5 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOL/

BISHOP ESTATE TO SERVE THE PRESSING HEALTH CARE NEEDS

OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THESE FUNDS WILL BE MATCHED ON A 50-50 BASIS
BY THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS AND THE VARIOUS STATE AND
COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT
OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, MORE THAN 15,000 AT RISK
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN WILL BE SERVED.

-- AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF YOUR
TRUSTEES, THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE
REVIEWING THE FINDINGS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE SPECIAL REPORT ON HAWAIIAN CARE NEEDS
AND WILL COME FORTH WITH A REPORT ON HOW TO ADDRESS
THESE PROBLEMS.

-- THE KAMEHAMEHA ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM (KEEP)
IS NOW BEING GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND IS ALSO THE SUBJECT
OF A SPECIAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BY THE DEPARTMENT.

-- AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF YOUR
TRUSTEES, THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FUNDS FOR SERVICES
AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE STATUTORILY SET ASIDE
AND RESERVED FOR PROGRAMS FOR AMERICAN INDIANS
AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

-- AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF YOUR
TRUSTEES, CENTERS TO PROVIDE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
CARE WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT HAWAII.

ALTHOUGH PRESENT STATISTICS ARE SAD AND TRAGIC,
STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT THEM, AND YOUR TRUSTEES,
PAINFULLY COGNIZANT OF THE DREAM OF PRINCESS PAUahi, HAVE
PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN TAKING STEPS TO RECTIFY AND
CORRECT THESE NUMBERS.

IT IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO SINGLE OUT THE WORK OF
ONE PERSON, BUT IN THIS CASE, I AM CERTAIN THAT THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES JOINS ME IN RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF ONE OF THEM--MYRON "PINKY" THOMPSON.
I AM CERTAIN THAT PRINCESS PAUahi IS PLEASED WITH THE WORK
OF "PINKY" THOMPSON.

AND, THE PRINCESS WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE INVOLVEMENT OF HER PEOPLE IN THE WESTERN LEGAL,
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. ONE OF THE TRUSTEES,
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM RICHARDSON, WAS THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF HAWAII. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE,
AND ALSO A TRUSTEE, IS OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN ANCESTRY--THE
HONORABLE HENRY PETERS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
THE HONORABLE RICHARD WONG IS ALSO OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN
ANCESTRY. THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK, JOHN BELLINGER, IS OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN
ANCESTRY. THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF HAWAII, JOHN WAIHEE
IS OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN ANCESTRY. THE SENIOR CONGRESSMAN
OF HAWAII, DAN AKAKA, ^{a graduate of Kamehameke School} IS OF THE HAWAIIAN ANCESTRY.

ALTHOUGH THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THESE DISTINGUISHED
PERSONS OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN ANCESTRY WOULD PLEASE PRINCESS
PAUHI, I DOUBT THAT SHE WOULD LOOK UPON THEM AS THE
FULFILLMENT OF HER MAGNIFICANT DREAM. THERE IS MUCH
MORE TO BE DONE. BUT IT PLEASES ME AS A CITIZEN OF HAWAII
TO KNOW THAT YOUR TRUSTEES HAVE TAKEN UP THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF FULFILLING THE PRINCESS' DREAM AND DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I AM CERTAIN THAT A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, YOUR
CONVOCATION SPEAKER WILL HAVE A MUCH BRIGHTER REPORT TO MAKE
ON THE SPECTACULAR CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY
THE MAGNIFICANT WILL OF THE BELOVED PRINCESS BERNICE PAUHI.

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