

Chronological: S. 830, Amending Acts Relating to Indian Education, 1986-06-12

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Box SP7, Folder 65
<http://hdl.handle.net/10524/63342>

Items in eVols are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

UHM Library Digital Collections Disclaimer and Copyright Information

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE BEFORE THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS JUNE 12, 1986

S.830, TO AMEND THE INDIAN EDUCATION ACT AND OTHER ACTS
RELATING TO INDIAN EDUCATION

OTHER POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY
OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS

I HAVE NO DELUSIONS ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF THIS BILL; NOR DO I PERCEIVE ANY OTHER COURSE OF ACTION AVAILABLE TO THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE THAN THAT OF BRINGING THEIR PLIGHT TO THE PUBLIC ARENA TO PRESS FOR LEGISLATION AND TO ASSERT THEIR NATIVE AMERICAN STATUS.

THERE ARE TWO URGENT AREAS OF CONCERN FOR THE HAWAIIANS. ONE IS HEALTH, WHICH THIS COMMITTEE IN ITS WISDOM AND CONCERN ADDRESSED IN S.2243, A BILL TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND REPORTED OUT. THE OTHER IS EDUCATION -- WHICH PROVIDES A MEANS FOR HAWAIIANS TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM A NEGATIVE SELF IMAGE AND ALLOW THEM TO COMPETE ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH THEIR PEERS.

IT WAS NEVER THE INTENT OF THIS NOR ANY OTHER BILL THAT THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER NEEDY PEOPLES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH WHOM, IN TERMS OF HISTORICAL

AND CULTURAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY SHARE A SPIRITUAL KINSHIP. RATHER, THE ISSUE FOR THE HAWAIIANS IS ONE OF SELF PRESERVATION AND SELF DETERMINATION. THE OBJECTIONS TO INCLUDING HAWAIIANS CONCERN MONEY AND THE PERCEIVED ENDANGERMENT OF A TRUST RELATIONSHIP THAT THIS OR ANY OTHER BILL WHICH LINKS NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND AMERICAN INDIANS THREATENS.

S.830 HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING. IT HAS HAD A LONG AND ARDUOUS HISTORY. THIS COMMITTEE HAS HELD HEARINGS ON HAWAIIAN EDUCATION BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII. AS A RESULT, A STUDY WAS ORDERED BY CONGRESS TO ASSESS THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF THE HAWAIIANS. THE FINDINGS REINFORCED THE CRITICAL AND IMMINENT NEED TO RECTIFY THE DETERIORATING LEARNING CONDITIONS FOR HAWAIIAN YOUNGSTERS.

IT MAY TAKE ANOTHER TEN YEARS AND ANOTHER GENERATION OF YOUNG HAWAIIANS STRIVING TO OVERCOME OVERWHELMING ODDS BEFORE THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSED IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER. AND TIME IS AGAINST THE HAWAIIAN.

WE WILL HEAR DESCRIBED TODAY SOME OF THE MANY EFFORTS MADE BY THE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY TO MEET THE SERIOUS EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS FACED BY HAWAIIANS. AS WORTHY AS THESE EFFORTS ARE, THEY REQUIRE THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT IF THEY ARE TO MEANINGFULLY AFFECT THE LIVES OF
ALL HAWAIIANS IN NEED.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS HEARING WILL HELP ADVANCE OUR
LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO AID HAWAIIANS AND RECTIFY OUR
GOVERNMENT'S SAD HISTORY OF NEGLECT.