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# 150th sugar anniversary/Kōloa celebration

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

Public relations, Speeches, statements, and messages, Box PR20, Folder 40

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150TH SUGAR ANNIVERSARY/KOLOA CELEBRATION  
JULY 27, 1985  
HONORABLE DANIEL K. AKAKA

GOVERNOR ARIYOSHI, MAYOR KUNIMURA, DOC, BOBBY, OFFICERS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE KOLOA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND HONORED  
FRIENDS:

MY HEARTIEST ALOHA AND BEST WISHES GO OUT TO EVERYONE ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY  
IN HAWAII. IT IS TRULY A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS  
AFTERNOON TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATION. IT IS ALSO  
INDEED NOTEWORTHY THAT WE ARE GATHERED IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THIS MILESTONE. ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO, SUGAR WAS  
FIRST CULTIVATED BY LADD & COMPANY ON 50 ACRES OF LAND, WITH  
A TWO-YEAR YIELD VALUED AT \$200. AS WE STAND HERE TODAY,  
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES, MILLIONS OF TONS OF RAW  
PRODUCT, \$425 MILLION IN REVENUES AND 26,000 DIRECTLY AND  
INDIRECTLY RELATED JOBS HAVE STEMMED FROM THAT MODEST BUT  
AMBITIOUS BEGINNING.

THE OBSERVATION OF A MOMENTOUS EVENT IS ALWAYS CAUSE FOR  
REFLECTION. THIS REMEMBRANCE, HOWEVER, SIGNIFIES EVEN MORE.  
IT IS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE VITALITY AND LONGEVITY OF THE  
SUGAR INDUSTRY IN HAWAII. IT IS A REDEDICATION ON THE PART  
OF LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE TO WORK  
TOGETHER IN PROVIDING THE COMBINED WILLINGNESS AND INGENUITY  
NEEDED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF A CHANGING WORLD MARKET.

ALL OF US HERE APPRECIATE AND RECOGNIZE THE SIGNAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY SUGAR TO OUR STATE. CERTAINLY, NO INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC BASE HAS SUSTAINED US SO WELL FOR SO LONG. ITS DEVELOPMENT AND MATURITY HAVE FOREVER LEFT THEIR MARK ON THE HISTORY OF HAWAII. NO OTHER SECTOR HAS DRAWN SO MEANINGFULLY ON THE EFFORTS AND TALENTS OF THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF HAWAIIAN SOCIETY NOR CREATED SO SPECIAL A KINSHIP AND SENSE OF MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY. FROM THE FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE, NO ONE WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT A GREATER ATTEMPT THAN ME TO PRESERVE THE ONE ASPECT OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY THAT IS AS MUCH A WAY OF LIFE AS IT IS A SOURCE OF BUSINESS.

AS MOST OF YOU ARE WELL-AWARE, THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FEDERAL PRESENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY. IT BEGAN IN 1739, WHEN A TARIFF WAS IMPOSED TO HELP RAISE REVENUES. IT GRADUALLY EVOLVED TO ITS PRESENT STATE, WHERE, AT NO COST TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER, WE WORK TO PROTECT OUR OWN PEOPLE FROM THE INTRUSION OF GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED FOREIGN PRODUCTS. STILL, AS STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE SUCH POLICIES EXPIRE THIS FALL. WELL, I, FOR ONE, SAY "NO!"

I AM NOT SO POLITICALLY SELF-INGRATIATING AS TO GIVE YOU ANY GUARANTEES. NONETHELESS, I WILL SAY THAT I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT A FOUR-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NONRECOURSE LOAN PROGRAM WILL ULTIMATELY BE SIGNED INTO LAW. I CANNOT SUFFICIENTLY DESCRIBE THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR ARIYOSHI, THE COUNTY MAYORS AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AND FROM PEOPLE LIKE BOBBY HUGHES, DOC BUYERS, EILER RAVNHOLT, TOMMY TRASK, AL CASTILLO, MIKE LEWIS AND MANY, MANY OTHERS. WITH SUCH BROAD-BASED BACKING, I CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE WE WILL SUCCEED.

WITH THAT UPBEAT NOTE FOR THE FUTURE, I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY EXPRESSING MY SINCEREST MAHALO TO ALL OF YOU FOR INVITING MILLIE AND ME HERE TODAY. MY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE KOLOA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND THE HSPA FOR SPONSORING THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM. IT GIVES ME GREAT JOY TO BE BACK IN HAWAII TO SHARE THIS TIME WITH YOU.