

Chronological: Ready to Learn Rally, Kauai Veterans Center

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Chronological, Box SP11, Folder 71
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MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: JENNIFER

DATE: AUGUST 20, 1998

**RE: READY TO LEARN RALLY, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1998,
AT THE KAUAI VETERANS CENTER,
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Kauai was the most aggressive in raising their own money for the Ready to Learn program. They solicited corporate funds (\$15,000), and there are \$10 admission tickets for the rally. The Kauai Ready to Learn program will occur in two components -- we satisfied Alu Like's request (they coordinated all of the native Hawaiian children requests) and sent over enough for 800 kits from Honolulu. The Kauai Campaign Committee will use their monies to directly support their three school districts through the HSTA. Supplies will be bought for the individual schools, and together with the PTAs, they will be distributed to needy children throughout the school year. They will keep the funds on Kauai and buy their supplies from local merchants.

Your program will distribute 22,000 school kits statewide for students from K-12 by this weekend. We were able to satisfy all the school supply requests received by the Community Clearinghouse by Monday, August 17th. We have had to turn down requests received since then. The 30,000 request figure that you have referenced includes non-school supply items such as clothing and as payments for immunization shots. As you know, we ran out of school supplies. While individual stores still have school supplies on their shelves, all the cupboards are bare. The warehouses of Fisher, Hopaco, Costco, Longs, Wal-Mart are empty, and your committee ran out of time to ship in from the mainland.

The volunteers did an outstanding job with Kalowena Komeiji as the Chairperson. It was indeed a mammoth task. The biggest cash sponsor is Campbell Estate at \$25,000. American Hawaii Cruises and First Hawaiian

Bank each contributed \$10,000 each. First Hawaiian has also made many in-kind contributions as well. Aloha Airlines shipped all the supplies to the neighbor islands. Fisher Hawaii and Longs Drug provided their supplies at wholesale prices. Oceanic Cable is sponsoring the Family Day at Bishop Museum.

There will be a short program at the Kauai Rally, and you will be asked to say a few words at about 5:00 p.m. You will make a ceremonial presentation of school supplies to Annette Creamer of Alu Like and then to James Yamamoto, Ready to Learn coordinator (retired teacher and HSTA member). All of the food has been donated, including chili from the Veterans Council, beef from Haseko and Outrigger, shrimp from Ernie Dias and CEATECH, sushi from HSTA and desserts from Pam Parker and the Crusty Gecko Bakery.

KAUAI HIGHLIGHTS

Defense

Pacific Missile Range Facility. Over the last four years, Senator Inouye has secured over \$288 million, above and beyond the annual \$50 million DOD budget request for PMRF. At present, they employ close to 900 employees, and are one of the largest employers on the island. chnology connection. It is the largest multi-environmental range in the world. From the deep blue ocean, shallow water, land, mountain top and into the sky, PMRF's capabilities provide for a wide variety of simulations. Senator Inouye also ensured the long-term future of PMRF by obtaining Congressional and Navy approval designating PMRF as the primary test range for the Navy Lower Tier and Upper Tier missile defense flights to develop improved, shipborne defense against theater ballistic missiles. This direction is based on the unique assets and demonstrated record of success in research, development, testing and evaluation activities and operational training exercises.

Additionally, \$3 million was provided to improve the facility's infrastructure, on and off base, that is critical to its operation and expansion. This includes: hydroelectric generators and power distribution lines between the Makaha Ridge, Kokee and the facility; repair of the drinking water system; and repair of the pumping station to keep Kekaha and the access road to PMRF from flooding.

In this year's DOD appropriations bill alone, there is \$50 million for operational costs, plus \$66 million in add-ons for PMRF and related initiatives for the Island of Kauai. They include: \$41 million for upgrades and operations; \$10 million for optical sensors and remote emitter simulators.

Sensor Integration. There is an exciting new endeavor alluded to in April before the Kauai Economic Development Board, for a sensor integration research and technology development center. Senator Inouye delivered \$11 million for this new initiative and capability for PMRF.

Textron and Thermatrex. Both companies have set up operations on Kauai. Both will be pursuing the manufacture of strategic materials (i.e, silicon thick film, mirror coatings). Textron is also pursing its optical sensor work with PMRF.

COMMERCE

Techno Tourism Center. Senator Inouye secured \$2.4 million to build a technology and tourism center in Waimea that will be connected to the PMRF and the Maui supercomputer. It will be the home of many new technology businesses that do work with PMRF. It will also be the gateway to the Kokee State Park and the Waimea Canyon, with information on activities and attractions, complete with craft and informational displays. Senator Inouye was on hand to break ground in April of 1998. The facility will be completed next year.

AGRICULTURE

Research. As a staunch supporter of agriculture, and with a recognition of the important place it holds in the economies of our rural areas, Senator Inouye has supported targeted research into all of the large crops -- sugar, pineapple, papayas, macadamia nuts, flowers -- and diversified research into taro, coffee and exotic fruits, as well as research into pest control, and minor crop pesticides totaling about \$20 million over the past six years. (This includes what is pending in the FY 1999 agriculture appropriations bill).

U.S. Trade Representative Supports Hawaii Banana Industry. The U.S. Trade Representative took action against the illegal import quotas in the European Union which resulted in the dumping of Latin American bananas in the U.S. market at below the cost of production, causing harm to the Hawaii banana industry. With urging and support from Senator Inouye, the European Union is being forced into compliance under the threat of sanctions which will allow Hawaii's farmers to compete.

Reauthorization of the U.S. Sugar Program. There are four remaining sugar plantations in Hawaii. The Congress passed a sugar program, but not without opposition. As a result, there were reforms that will make it more difficult for cane growers to compete with domestic sugar beet producers and government subsidized foreign producers that can place their sugar on the world market at below the cost of production. Additionally, cane growers continue to work to strike a balance with U.S. cane refiners over imported foreign sugar. It is a delicate balance between helping the C&H Refinery meet its specific needs and remain viable, and supporting the Hawaii growers who need a sufficient price for their raw sugar to survive.

Rural Economic Transition Assistance (RETA). To date, over \$21 million has been appropriated over the last four years to help put displaced sugar workers back into agriculture on former sugar lands, while commercializing agriculturally-based products that satisfy military and civilian markets. Another \$5.4 million is pending in the FY 1999 DOD appropriations bill. Over 50 RETA projects are "in the ground." This translates to over 20,000 acres of former plantation lands that are back in production which has directly assisted in establishing or maintaining 475 agricultural jobs.

Senator Inouye presented Amfac with \$1.5 million to begin a diversified agriculture program. The former McBryde sugar workers are also well on their way. New crops on Kauai include: papaya, mango, alfalfa, seed corn, taro, kava and noni.

Training. To support the displaced workers, job training has been set-aside -- about \$240,000 for Kauai -- to teach the growing of new groups, business skills, basic science, as well as mechanical equipment operations training. This will help many to make the transition.

Aquaculture. CEATECH is constructing ponds, and rapidly expanding their shrimp production, utilizing shrimp rearing and feeds technology developed with federal funds.

ENVIRONMENT

In his 1997 State of the Union Address, President Clinton announced the American Heritage Rivers Initiative to help communities revitalize their rivers and the banks along them. After a nationwide nomination process, the President recently selected 14 rivers and their surrounding communities for special assistance. Hanalei River was included with such well known company as the Potomac, the Mississippi, the Hudson, and the Willamet. Senator Inouye supported Hanalei River in the nomination process.

The Initiative is designed to help coordinate federal assistance in the areas of environmental protection, economic development, and social services. The Initiative creates no new regulatory requirements, and that it is to be a bottom up program in which the local communities decide how projects related to their river will be implemented.