

# Speeches and messages: 1961-1963: [Election - first U.S. Representative from Hawai'i]

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Speeches and messages, Box SP2, Folder 1

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I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being the first U. S. Representative from the new sovereign state of Hawaii.

I consider it a sacred duty entrusted to me by a people determined to prove their worth as equal members of <sup>our</sup> the nation.

I do not consider my election victory as a personal victory. I consider it a victory of the peoples of diverse ethnic backgrounds <sup>who</sup> that make up the populace of Hawaii.

I shall shoulder <sup>my</sup> this responsibility and make statehood for Hawaii a testament to the fair play, wisdom and democratic good will of the Congress and the people of the United States.

Because of my ethnic background, I anticipate that added responsibilities will be placed on me even as a freshman congressman.

I am determined to do my share, small though it may be, to make Hawaii a bridge to understanding and tolerance between the Western and Asiatic worlds.

In war Hawaii served the nation as her Pacific bastion.

In peace I believe that Hawaii will serve our nation in fostering a spirit of good will and trust among the peoples of these two worlds.

I accept this sacred privilege of serving our people in Congress with deep humility.

DANIEL K. INOUE  
Representative-Elect  
United States Congress

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