

Charles Reed Bishop dinner and medal award

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA
CHARLES REED BISHOP DINNER
AND MEDAL AWARD
BISHOP MUSEUM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1997
6:30 P.M.**

**Thank you DONALD (DR. DONALD
DUCKWORTH, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR) for
your warm and gracious introduction and thank
you Board of Directors of the Bishop Museum
for this award.**

**I am honored to receive this year's Charles
Reed Bishop Medal. Many distinguished people
have been honored in the past with this medal,
and I accept it with pride, humility, and
gratitude.**

Charles Reed Bishop was a visionary when he established the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in 1889. He had the foresight to realize the importance of preserving Hawaiian artifacts and relics. And in creating this world class institution, he truly honored the memory of his beloved wife, the Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

Institutions like the Bishop Museum make us all aware of the connectedness of human life--that is to say, what we owe to the past, to each other, and to future generations. In preserving the physical reminders of Hawaii's history, the museum has been our "super-ego,"

the cultural component of our people's unique and vital identity.

To me, this is why the museum, as exemplified in your outstanding new exhibit, "Na Mea Makamae: Treasures of Hawai'i," is so important, and why we must sustain the museum's efforts to preserve our islands' heritage.

For these reasons, I'm especially proud of my role in helping you establish the Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program and in serving as Honorary Trustee of the program. This year, I will continue to support your efforts to seek federal funds to help refurbish Bishop

and Hawaiian Halls--a difficult task, given the federal budget situation, but one that is fully justified by its purpose.

I admit to a selfish and sentimental motive in this respect: I attended school in Bishop Hall when it served as the site of the original Kamehameha School for Boys. No one likes to see his alma mater succumb to old age--if only because it is an uncomfortable reminder of one's own advancing years!

But, more to the point, support for all of the museum's many programs should be an obligation of all of Hawaii's sons and daughters, at least those who treasure our aina and believe

**in the museum's role as the chief custodian of
Native Hawaiian culture. I look forward to
working with all of you to advance the
museum's mission.**

**To all of you, my sincerest thanks for this
honor you've given me with the presentation of
this award.**

Mahalo!