



DANIEL K. INOUYE  
INSTITUTE

## Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

November 17, 2025

Aloha friends, family, and members of our DKI 'ohana,

We are pleased to share an important update about the Daniel K. Inouye Institute. After many years as a program fund under the Hawai'i Community Foundation, DKII is now its own independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. This new chapter allows us to deepen our mission, and continue to honor U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye's extraordinary legacy of courage, leadership, and service to Hawai'i and our nation. It also allows us to more easily fundraise and accept donations.

We are proud to introduce our new Board and Officers:

- Jennifer Sabas, Board Member & President
- Ken Inouye, Board Member
- Peter Boylan, Board Member
- Kamakana Watanabe, Board Member
- Mark Fox, Board Treasurer
- Sara Hamakawa, Board Secretary



Defining Courage 2.0 returned to Hawai'i, bringing powerful new stories of local Nisei veterans to life with cinematic storytelling, archival footage, and original music by Grammy-winner Daniel Ho and the RAISE Choir, with a special performance by Harold Payne. Created by Story Boldly in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, this live documentary

DANIEL K. INOUYE INSTITUTE FUND

Hawai'i Community Foundation • 827 Fort Street Mall • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808.537.6333

[www.danielkinouyeinstitute.org](http://www.danielkinouyeinstitute.org)



theater experience honors the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of World War II with more stories of Hawaii warriors including CAPT Dan Inouye. Two performances were held on November 8 and 9 at McKinley High School and one on Maui on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

For those on the mainland – there are two performances next year – in Los Angeles at the Aratani Theater on February 19, 2026; and in Seattle at the Meany Center for the Performing Arts, University of Washington on April 11, 2026. <https://definingcourage.show.com/>

~~~~~

On October 18, DKII co-sponsored a talk with UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences and Hamilton Library featuring Daniel De Varona Brennan, a 2025–26 UH-DKII Research Fellow and Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University. Brennan presented his research entitled “Honorable Men and Rogue Elephants,” exploring the origins of Congressional oversight of the CIA and Senator Inouye’s pivotal role as the first Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Brennan is a Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University, who spent a week pouring through Senator Inouye’s papers, which are in the Hawai‘i Congressional Papers Collection at the Hamilton Library. In his talk, Brennan explored how the U.S. Congress, in the wake of the 1947 National Security Act, asserted oversight over the intelligence community, highlighting Senator’s leadership in shaping a framework of accountability that endures to this day.

Following the talk, there was a lively Q and A that covered topics, including Senator Mike Mansfield’s mentorship of Senator Inouye and then-Senator Biden, and the necessity of bipartisanship to get things done. Brennan shared with preference for using Congressional papers as a part his research because of the information “treasures” that could be found in constituent correspondence and staff memos. He was happy with his visit and time in Hawaii. Following his visit to UH Mānoa, Brennan was headed to Boise State University to conduct further research utilizing the U.S. Senator Frank Church’s papers.



### Honorable Men and Rogue Elephants:

The Origins and Implications of Congressional Oversight of the CIA

A hybrid talk by Daniel Brennan, 2025–2026 Hawai‘i Congressional Papers Collection Research Fellow

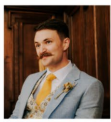
**In 1947 the United States Congress did something remarkable: it passed a sweeping reorganization of the nation’s military and defense agencies in which it also established a secret intelligence service tasked with conducting espionage and subversion around the world. There was nothing unusual about the new Central Intelligence Agency’s mission—states had been involved in clandestine activities since time immemorial—however formally enshrining such an agency into public law was far from ordinary. When the 1947 National Security Act became law the United States Government was declaring openly not just that it was ‘in the intelligence business,’ but that the conduct of that business would be bound by law and overseen by Congress.**

**Join us for a discussion about how Congress and the CIA navigated the opening decades of this new and unusual arrangement, and to learn about how Hawai‘i Senator Daniel K. Inouye came to be the first Chairman of the powerful Senate Intelligence Committee.**

October 18, 2025  
2-3:30 pm HST  
Hamilton Library  
Room 301  
and on Zoom

Zoom Registration:





Daniel De Varona Brennan is a Predoctoral Fellow with the America in the World Consortium at Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies and A DPhil Candidate at Oriel College, University of Oxford. His dissertation examines the emergence and evolution of U.S. Congressional Oversight of Intelligence during the Cold War.






---

## SUPPORTING DKII'S MISSION

If you are able, we humbly ask for your support in helping DKII to preserve Senator Inouye's legacy and to share it with future generations. Every gift—no matter the size—will make a meaningful difference. Online donations can be made using this link -- <https://dkii.org/donate/>

---

As a reminder, the bronze statue of our beloved Senator at the United terminal at the Daniel K. Inouye Airport is public for all to see, visit, talk story and take a selfie! Here is former staff member Peter Boylan sharing some Aloha with the boss!



And Booker stopped by to give Uncle Dan some aloha as well!



As we enter this season of gratitude, we extend our warmest Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones. We are deeply thankful for your continued support and friendship. May your holiday be filled with warmth, good health, and cherished moments.

Aloha,  
Jennifer, Sara and the DKII Team