



DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

September 8, 2026

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

September 7th is always a special day for the Inouye team – Senator's birthday. We think about him fondly, smiling, sometimes even chuckling, as we recall a host of wonderful memories. Sara and I spent the morning at Daniel K. Inouye Airport, moving out his artifacts and memorabilia from an old display in Terminal 2 to make room for a new mural. It will focus on Hawaii as the gathering place of the Pacific and the Senator's role in encouraging our friends and allies in the Pacific region to come to Hawaii to "talk story," to collaborate and chart paths forward, reminiscent of his quote from the APEC Conference in 2011:

"I have long believed that Hawaii – multicultural and tolerant – is what the world should always strive to be."

DKII is working with the Hawaii Department of Transportation to have mobile display units placed throughout the DKI Airport. We are excited with the partnership, so stay tuned!



We are pleased to share updates and happenings over the past few months:

DKII MADE SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE

On June 2, on behalf of the Daniel K. Inouye Institute, former Senator Inouye staff members Peter Boylan and Rufino Magliba visited the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu, and presented Consul General Arman Talbo with two items from Senator's

collection: a carved wooden box containing an assortment of shells and a copy of *Today's Revolution: Democracy*, written by Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr. Inside the book is a special, handwritten message from President Marcos dated September 1, 1972, expressing his admiration and affection for Senator Inouye, whom he called "a close friend of the Philippines."

The two leaders shared a long relationship built upon the historic ties between Hawaii, its Filipino community, and the longstanding relationship between the United States and the Philippines. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter asked Senator Inouye to travel to Manila to help restart stalled negotiations involving U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Senator Inouye focused on the criticality of mutual respect among allies and sovereigns, which in turn, allowed the negotiations to quickly and amicably conclude. Senator Inouye continued to advocate throughout his career for justice for Filipino veterans and for positive US-Philippines relations.

The gifts are an expression of Senator Inouye's aloha for the Filipino people and a reminder of a friendship that helped strengthen relations between the United States and the Philippines. It is also especially fitting, given that Ferdinand Marcos' son, Bongbong is now the President of the Philippines.



THE INSTITUTE PRESENTS HISTORIC FLAG TO DPAA

On July 17, Jennifer and Sara visited the DKI Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the gifting and unveiling of a special U.S. flag. The flag was flown at half-staff over the U.S. Capitol on December 17, 2012, the day Senator Inouye passed away. Hawaii-born and raised Kelly McKeague, Director of DPAA, and DPAA staff were on hand for the ceremony.

DPAA works around the world to locate, recover, and identify missing American service members, providing answers and closure to their families, and fulfilling our nation's promise to bring them home. Senator Inouye was a passionate champion of DPAA's mission and worked to ensure that the agency had a permanent home in Hawaii, given the many service members still missing in action in the Pacific (Vietnam War).

The flag is now displayed in the agency's lobby, where it will be seen by staff, visitors and the families of recently identified service members—a meaningful tribute to Senator Inouye's enduring commitment to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

[Read the full DPAA story and view photographs from the ceremony.](#)

Photo Credits -- DPAA



USS DANIEL INOUE HAIL AND FAREWELL

On July 31st Ken, Jessica, Maggie, and Sara joined USS DANIEL INOUE Commander Erik Gardner, his wife, Tulika, and the ship's senior leadership team for a Hail and Farewell gathering. This time-honored military tradition recognizes crew members departing for new assignments and welcomes those newly joining the ship.



During the program, Ken shared personal reflections about his father, and Sara spoke about the history of DKII and its special relationship with the ship—from the keel-laying in 2018 and christening in 2019, to the ship's departure from Maine, arrival at Pearl Harbor and commissioning in 2021. Stacey Hayashi, a local writer and filmmaker, shared the history and legacy of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.



Following dinner and program, Erik and Tulika surprised the crew with a traditional Chinese lion dance—a festive finale to bring good luck to the ship and all who serve

aboard her.



THE INOUE SOLAR TELESCOPE OFFERS A REMARKABLE NEW VIEW OF THE SUN

The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope atop Haleakala was formally named for Senator Inouye in 2013, shortly after his passing. The naming honors his longstanding commitment to scientific research, discovery, and education. The world's most powerful solar telescope began scientific operations and was formally opened on August 21, 2022.

Recently, the telescope captured extraordinary video showing tiny, swirling whirlpools of superheated plasma on the sun's surface. Scientists believe these newly visible patterns may help explain how the sun produces solar flares and other space weather that can affect satellites, communications, and electrical grids here on Earth.

LEARN MORE by clicking these links:

- [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#)
- [The Washington Post](#)
- [National Solar Observatory—including the new video](#)

Photo credits -- National Solar Observatory (NSO), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA)



We just celebrated Labor Day, and paused to honor the contributions of America's workers. Senator Inouye spoke proudly that our nation's strength is built by the hard work of everyday people. He remained committed throughout his career to protecting their dignity, rights, and opportunities.

We are deeply thankful for your support and friendship as we continue to share the Senator's enduring legacy through partnerships and educational programs that remain both relevant and important in these tumultuous times. We are now our own 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so every gift — no matter the size — will make a meaningful difference. Online donations can be made using this link: <https://dkii.org/donate>

Aloha,
Jennifer, Sara, and the DKII Team

As a reminder, the bronze statue of our beloved Senator is located at the United terminal at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. Please visit, talk story, take a selfie, and send it to us!

We would like to share another great photo op – Curt Hamakawa, born and raised in Hilo, stopped to visit with the Senator on a recent visit home.



[Visit our Website](#)



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