



DANIEL K. INOUE  
INSTITUTE

February 7, 2021

Aloha Friends and Colleagues,

Just as we happily bid Aloha to a rough 2020, and were looking forward to a brighter 2021, January 6th happened. A horrid, surreal attack on our nation's Capital and symbolically, the very foundation of the democracy of this land. For those of us who had the privilege of working in DC, and walking thru and working in the Capitol, it was difficult to watch. My stomach turned as I wiped away a few tears - shocked, devastated, and disgusted.

Our Senator had an uncanny way of speaking in timeless and broad-reaching ways. Looking for some solace I think, I re-read the keynote speech he delivered at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, amid passionate civil rights protests and at times, violent opposition to the Vietnam War. These too were tumultuous times - more than 50 years ago.

Here are a few excerpts:

*"This is our country.*

*"And we are engaged in a time of great testing, testing whether this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to opportunity for all its citizens, can not only endure but continue to progress. The issue before us in such a time is how shall we discharge, how shall we honor our citizenship.*

*"Riot has bludgeoned our cities, laying waste our streets, our property, and, most important, human lives. The smoke of destruction has even shrouded the dome of our Capitol. In Washington, the task of restoring order drew more than twice as many Federal troops as were involved in the defense of Khe Sanh in Vietnam.*

*"What should concern us is something far more fundamental. The true dimension of the challenge facing us is a loss of faith. I do not mean simply a loss of religious faith, although this erosion is a major contributor to our unease. I mean a loss of faith in our country, in its purposes, and in its institutions. I mean a retreat from the responsibilities of citizenship.*

...

*"Working together, we have done much. We can, and we must do much, much more. Fellow Democrats, we are here tonight because in large part we share our faith in our country and in its processes of orderly, humanistic change. Change and challenge should not deter us now. We have long been a party of change and challenge.*

*"That today's crisis is one of the human spirit should not deter us. We have long been a party which gave priority to the needs of human beings. So, let us go forward with programs, responsive to the needs of today and responsive to the needs of tomorrow.*

*"Fellow Americans, this is our country. Its future is what we, its citizens, will make it. And as we all know, we have much to do. Putting aside hatred on the one hand and timidity on the other, let us grow fresh faith in our purpose and new vigor in our citizenship."*

DANIEL K. INOUE INSTITUTE FUND

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*The site of recent unrest, Senator Inouye seen here presiding over the U.S. Senate as President Pro Tempore in 2010*

This is a good segway to the brighter 2021 we were hoping for - the inauguration to a new President and White House. As is tradition, the new Oval Office is redone with paintings, busts and special items selected with great care to signal pivotal historical moments/lessons, cherished leaders and mentors, and foundations of democracy important to President Biden. The DKI Institute is thrilled that a Native American sculpture entitled, *Swift Messenger*, once owned by Senator Inouye and proudly displayed in his office for years, is now a part of the Biden Oval Office. I would like to think this is an acknowledgment the First Peoples of this land, and the longtime friendship of two senators.

Inouye chaired the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for many years, bringing the plight of Native Americans into national view and on a path of recognition, reconciliation and remedy. Created by artist Allan Houser, "Swift Messenger" was donated to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian after the Senator's passing by Irene Hirano Inouye in 2013.

Here is a link to the story <https://www.rafu.com/2021/02/oval-office-art-is-a-nod-to-inouye-and-native-americans/>.



Please continue to be safe -- wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands and get your vaccine!

PS - the future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) successfully completed its acceptance trials on February 4, 2021 off the coast of Maine. This brings her one step closer to a commissioning and homeporting at Pearl Harbor in November 2021 (fingers crossed!)

Aloha,  
Jennifer, Sara & DKII Ohana

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Global internet superstar **Bretman Rock** has joined forces with Act to Change, the Daniel K. Inouye Institute, and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center on its #KindnessHeals Youth Art Project!

A graduate of James Campbell High School raised and living in Hawaii, Rock has been recognized nationally and across the globe as an outspoken advocate and environmentalist with a passion for causes that support youth and the Asian American & Pacific Islander community.

*“As a queer, first-generation Filipino-American, I’ve always shown the world my true, authentic self and to give others the opportunity to do the same. With the past year we’ve all gone through, it’s so important for all of us to try our best to treat each other with kindness and for all of us to embrace and celebrate everyone’s individual identities. Love the person you are, and leave the hate behind – nobody needs it,”* stated Rock.



From the xenophobia towards Asian Americans caused by the global pandemic to the recent riot on the United States Capitol, the #KindnessHeals campaign seeks to inspire hope through art as we reflect and learn from the past 12 months, and embrace all the opportunities the future holds.

Youth ages 13-18 residing in the United States are encouraged to participate in the #KindnessHeals campaign by creating a PPE mask design and submitting either photos of the design or a short video explaining the inspiration for their art to [www.acttochange.org/kindnessheals](http://www.acttochange.org/kindnessheals). The deadline for art submissions has been **extended until February 24, 2021**.

Educators and community groups interested in participating and receiving educational curriculum and kits to accompany the #KindnessHeals campaign can also [click here](#) for resources and information.

In addition to art submissions, participating youth and classes will have the opportunity to engage in various online conversations and virtual exhibitions, including a virtual VIP event in March with Bretman Rock & a select group of participating student artists.