



DANIEL K. INOUE  
INSTITUTE

September 23, 2019

Dear Friends:

It's been a busy summer! The Daniel K Inouye Institute has been working hard to share the Senator's legacy across the country from Maine, to Washington DC, and of course, right here in Hawaii. So much so that we are breaking our updates into 2 newsletters!

### **Christening of the Daniel Inouye (DDG 118)**



On June 21-22, 2019 the DKI ohana gathered in Bath, Maine for the christening of the Navy Destroyer Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), which will arrive in its homeport of Pearl Harbor in early 2021 under the leadership of Commanding Officer CDR DonAnn Gilmore, Master Chief Thomas Mace, and more than 300 sailors. We are honored that the USS Daniel Inouye's first commander will be a woman.



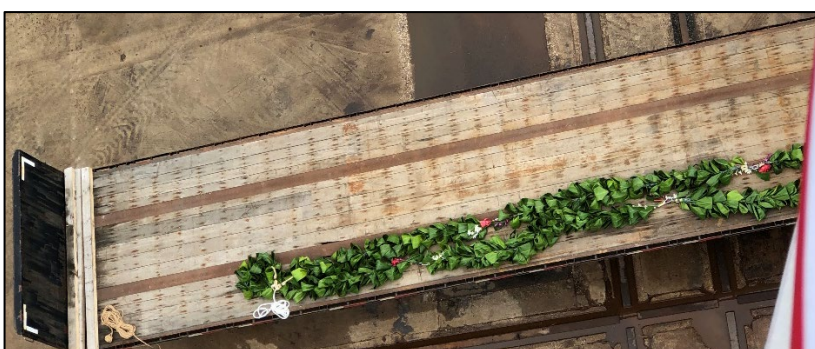
DANIEL K. INOUE INSTITUTE FUND

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Just getting to Maine was a monumental task! We decided that a plastic lei on the DANIEL INOUE just would not do, so we went to work. Thanks to support from Brion Chang and his team, 8 segments -- feet each, a massive ti-leaf lei (tied to a 1-inch diameter rope), which when assembled stretched 75 feet - a double strand lei. Watch this video to see the lei being assembled at the shipyard upon our arrival. <https://youtu.be/XTi5d9OV0PU>. The shipyard staff was eager to learn how to build the lei, and really enjoyed seeing the beautiful flowers. In addition, we brought 4 dozen lei for dignitaries, together with Big Island Candies, Kauai's special salt and a host of omiyage for special guests.



**Brion Chang & team build the ti-leaf lei in Honolulu, and a close-up of one strand of the lei**



**Ti-leaf lei on a flat bed truck in Maine, waiting to be lifted onto the ship; 2<sup>nd</sup> picture is shipyard crew hoisting the lei with lots of aloha.**

On the day before the christening, family, friends, former staff and military leaders came together to participate in the traditional Mast Stepping Ceremony. Special items were placed in a box which was welding into the mast of the ship. Charlie Houy shared wonderful stories as he placed the Senator's Good Conduct medal into the box. Ken Inouye did a heartfelt job placing his grandmother's brooch and family bible. We have 2 videos that are from this event -- <https://youtu.be/F4ppmckvUVE> which shows the items that were placed in the box and <https://youtu.be/I9f3U8bOkbg> which has some of Senator's life history.



Charlie Houy and Betsy Schmid place the Good Conduct Medal in the box



Jessica and Maggie Inouye place the Inouye family bible and family brooch in the box



The Mast Stepping box filled; and the top of the box



Former Inouye Staff members from left to right: Betsy Schmid, Ipo Lung, Charlie Houy, Sara Daly Hamakawa, Marie Blanco, Margaret Cummisky, Nicole DiResta and Jennifer Goto Sabas



Irene, Jessica, Maggie and Kenny with the Mast Stepping box closed

Irene Inouye was the Ship Sponsor with Jessica Inouye and Jennifer Sabas serving as the Matrons of Honor and Maggie Inouye as a Maid of Honor and flower girl (yes - it was like a wedding). Irene presented gifts to be hung in the ship - Senator's military medals, his Medal of Honor flag with citation

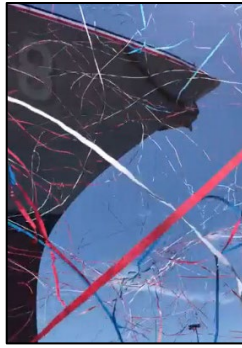


and photo. A special side note, his Medal of Honor flag was folded by the McKinley High School's (his alma mater) JROTC, who signed the back of the frame which held the flag. It was well received by all.

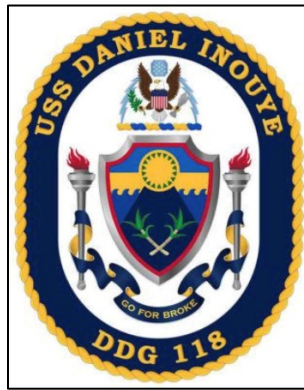


Maine Governor and both U.S. Senators opened the Christening Ceremony warmly. And our own U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono served as the keynote speaker. Hundreds watched as Irene broke the champagne bottle on the bow of the ship which was followed by streamers and confetti everywhere. Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Honor Guard joined with Navy members to conduct the Presentation of Colors for the official ceremony. A very nice touch. You may watch the video of the ceremony here -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZHdvid59lk&t=1660s>





A sincere mahalo to all the hearts and hands that came together to make this event possible! The General Dynamics and Navy crews truly went above and beyond to prepare and execute every detail for the weekend. Hawaiian Airlines aided in shipping hundreds of pounds of lei and omiyage to the East Coast, Big Island Candies and our friends on Kauai made sure the aloha spirit was alive and well throughout the festivities. It truly took a village to christen a U.S.S. Destroyer - Hawaiian style.



With so many moments to remember, and even more to come as the DDG 118 embarks on its maiden voyage to Hawaii for her home port at Pearl Harbor, we will be creating a special page on our website to post pictures, video and updates. In the meantime, follow the crew on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ddg118>. We are looking forward to the commissioning of the USS Daniel Inouye at Pearl Harbor in early 2021.

Aloha  
Irene, Ken, Jen and the entire crew