DANIEL K. INOUYE
INSTITUTE

Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

November 17, 2025

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

We are pleased to share an important update about the Daniel K. Inouye Institute. After many years as a program fund under the Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi 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

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Defining Courage 2.0 returned to Hawaiʻi, 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
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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 10th.

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://definingcourageshow.com/

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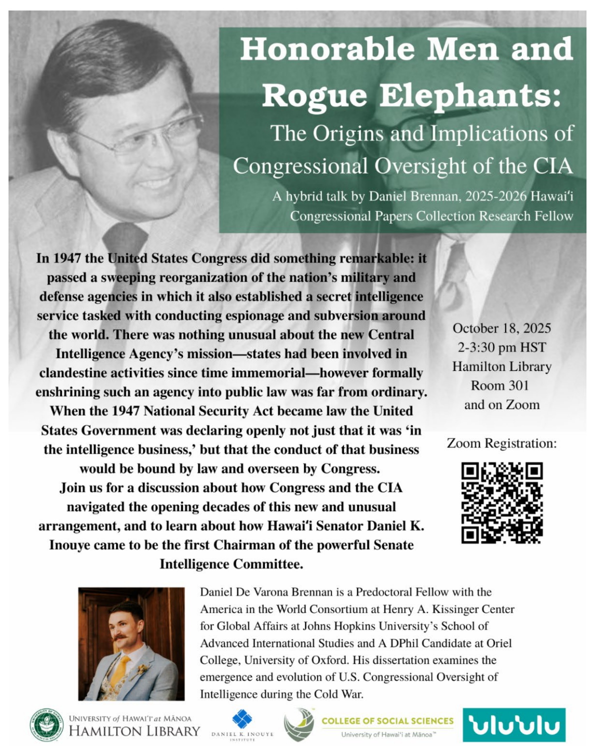
On October 18, DKII co-sponsored a talk with UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences and Hamilton Library featuring Daniel De Varona Brennan, a 2025–26 UH-DKII Research Fellow and Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University. Brennan presented his research entitled "Honorable Men and Rogue Elephants," exploring 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 Hawaiʻi 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. Brennon 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.
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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