



DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

December 30, 2019

Aloha Dear Friends!

It is difficult to believe we are fast nearing the end of 2019, and the seventh year since Senator's passing. Still bittersweet as the former staff gathered at Kabuki Restaurant on December 17th to hoist a glass in memory of an amazing leader and boss.

We had a busy, exciting year – with the ultimate highlight being the christening of DDG 118 DANIEL INOUE and all of the festivities in Bath, Maine. Irene got a note from Commander Donann Gilmore in late October sharing that the DANIEL INOUE launched into the water as the crew continues to grow. Sea trials, testing and training are ongoing. The crew has taken down and wrapped up our beautiful ti-leaf lei as they prepared for winter in the Northeast.



The commissioning of the USS DANIEL INOUE is being planned for Spring 2021 at its home port, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii. How fitting, indeed! Come the New Year, we will get to work to support the Navy and Navy League in planning the commissioning ceremony and accompanying events. Stay tuned!

Our final "Talk Story" of the year, in partnership with Zocalo Public Square, touched upon a rather emotional topic - both historically and present day - that of immigration. Entitled, "Does Hawaii Welcome Immigrants?," was held at the Artistry in Kakaako to a full house of our community.



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Panel members – former Lt. Governor/Attorney General Doug Chinn, immigration attorney Clare Hanusz, Yale University historian Gary Okihiro, and Pacific Gateway deputy director Terrina Wong - with Moderator Catherine Cruz of Hawaii Public Radio concluded that while Hawaii could do more to welcome and support immigrants, the recent actions of the Trump Administration make it a challenge to simply protect migrant, refugees, and asylum seekers already here.



Doug Chinn who as Hawaii's Attorney General led the state's legal challenges against the Trump Administration ban on those from Muslim countries, shared that it has been especially difficult because a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court refuse to acknowledge the new immigration restrictions, including the diversion of federal funds from defense construction projects to build a wall, are unconstitutional. Both Clare Hanusz and Terrina Wong shared their triumphs and heartbreaks working with families in the community. And, Professor Okihiro provided a historic context with waves of immigrants coming from different countries to work in the plantations and then in the hotels. Over the many years, there has been a split among residents on welcoming migrants to Hawaii's shores. In the end, modern Hawaii has been transformed into a multicultural place thru immigration from around the world. Questions from the audience were pointed, heartfelt and expressing frustration with national (and some state) policies which are causing hardship for many in search of a better life for themselves and their families, no different than those who have come before them.



We ended the evening with delicious bowls of chicken hekka and rice – a favorite “plantation” dish. Whatever vegetables were available, together with some chicken, went into the pot in a broth of shoyu, sugar and a splash of sake. (Although our caterer, MW made a “high-end”, healthy chicken hekka compared to what many old timers were used to!) It was delicious – with conversation continuing well into the evening.



This year marked the 60th anniversary of statehood in Hawaii. In partnership with the Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF), the 2nd annual DKII Student Film Initiative invited high school and middle school students from around the state to reflect on what this moment in time means to them and where they see Hawaii going in the next 40 years of our centennial of statehood. Sharing archived items of historical importance from the DKII collection as possible inspiration, students could also draw upon current day objects/events that reflect modern day themes and perspectives.



Out of the 20 submissions, 14 finalists from 10 schools across Hawaii were selected to have their short videos shown at the Regal Theaters at Dole Cannery as a part of the HIFF Future Filmmakers Competition. All finalists were invited to the awards ceremony and lunch at Wai Wai Collective.

First place went to Roosevelt High School filmmakers Inez Anderson and Jessie Hearther. Mentored by Hawaii Women in Filmmaking, the duo created a short film entitled, “A Kingdom at Crossroads” which placed a critical lens on the state of Hawaii and the impact of future land stewardship. Second place went to Ewa Makai Middle School filmmakers Jack Scroggins, Serenity Burrows and Jaysha-Lynn Ganiron. Self-identified change-makers, these 8th graders focused their short film on the importance of preserving the Hawaiian culture.



In addition to prizes and cash awards, students had the opportunity to meet this year's DKII Student Film Initiative Youth Ambassador Jacob Batalon – who rose to stardom in his role as Ned Leeds in *Spider-Man Homecoming* and *Spider-Man Far From Home*. From Ewa Beach (and his first stop to visit with Mom and family) to New York City and Hollywood, Jacob shared his story and answered questions – many of which came from one of his biggest fans, Maggie Inouye! Jacob was candid, heartfelt, sharing the tough times as well as his triumphs. His “lucky” break that launched his career inspired many in the audience to think about their own future paths.

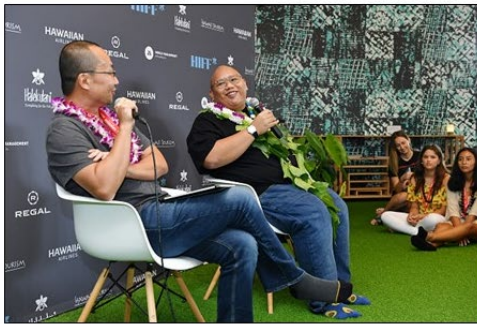


Photo courtesy of HIFF & Getty Images. Photo credit: Amy Sussman.

The Daniel K. Inouye Speaker Series was pleased to bring Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs to Hawaii for a timely discussion of the challenges and opportunities of our region. We are proud to partner with the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and the APSCC Foundation to support two events a year in furtherance of the Senator's vision of a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. The goal of the series is to engage our broader community – from business and government leaders to academia and the Diplomatic Corps — in a conversation about the pressing issues facing the Indo-Pacific region.



ASD Shriver was impressive – no prepared text or notes. His knowledge of the region, both the conflicts and corresponding U.S. posture, were appropriately placed in a historical context. The latter was always a critical point for Senator; basically, if you don't know the history of the region and the historical relationships between the nations, how can you properly navigate a path forward. Shriver easily connected with the audience when he shared that he was born at Tripler Army Medical Center, returning to Hawaii as a Naval officer, proudly stating that he was ADM Harris' executive officer. How small this world is with former PACOM Commander, now U.S. Ambassador to Korea, Harry Harris serving as this Series' inaugural speaker.



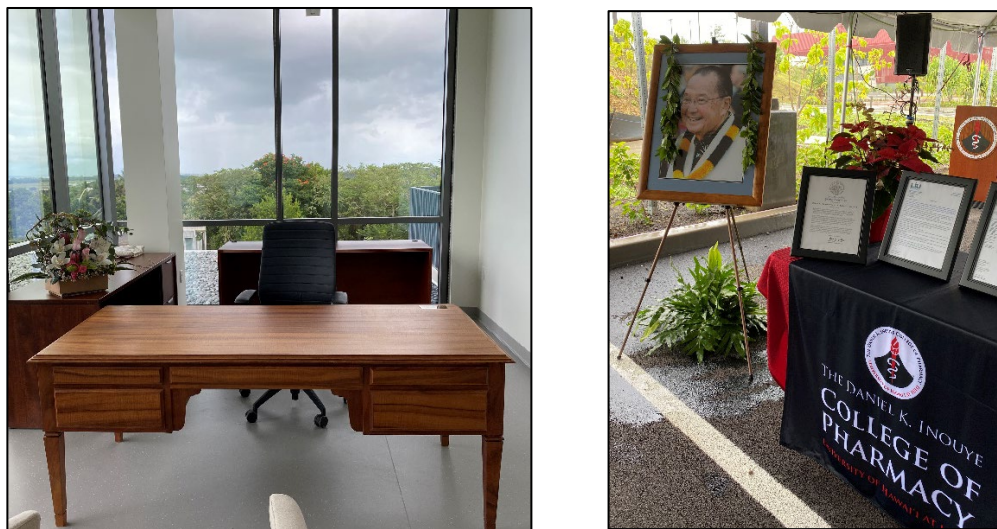
With many from the Consular Corps in the house, there were a variety of questions for ASD Shriver so much so that we ran out of time. Always the sign of a successful event – with the conversation spilling into the reception. Guests were treated to a yummy creation by the students of Kapiolani Community College culinary program, under the watchful eye of Chef Grant Sato. It was a delicious mix of the flavors of the Asia Pacific.



Our last event of the year was the long-awaited dedication of the permanent new home of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy on December 4th. It has been 13 years since the College opened its doors, and more than 770 graduates who claim themselves as proud UH alumni. At long last, a hale to call their own! It was a wonderful community celebration with both Irene and Kenny on hand for the festivities.



The Institute made a very special gift to the College – the Senator's koa desk which was handcrafted by one of his 442nd buddies many decades ago. It is now the Dean's desk as a warm reminder of the importance Senator placed on the role of our neighbor islands in contributing to post-secondary and career opportunities, as well as the criticality of the allied health disciplines working together for a healthier Hawaii.



As we look to 2020, we are excited about our plans for a new annual lecture series, in partnership with the Ted Stevens Foundation at the U.S. Institute for Peace, and our selected artist, Maui native Kirk Kurokawa, to paint Senator's portrait, as President Pro Tempore, which will be hung in the U.S. Capitol.

We have much to be thankful for and to look forward to in 2020, indeed! Thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and good wishes. Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year – Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Irene, Kenny and Jen