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November 25, 2020



DANIEL K. INOUYE  
INSTITUTE

## Happy Thanksgiving!

2020 has been a tumultuous year. Yet, we have much to be thankful for as we each count our blessings. Now that the election is over, we continue to hope for a peaceful, orderly transition which is the hallmark of our nation's democracy. With a presidential transition underway, the focus now turns to re-establishing our leadership position on the world stage, getting a better handle on the COVID pandemic as preparations are made for a vaccine, and beginning to heal in deep divides in our country.

As some may know, Dan Inouye and Joe Biden enjoyed a long friendship which started the day Biden entered the U.S. Senate as a young senator from Delaware. Please enjoy a few photos and video with Senator Inouye and now President-elect Biden.

Let us be thankful for family and friends. Maybe some good food over the Thanksgiving holiday too. Stay safe, and socially distant, wear your mask and wash your hands!

Aloha,  
Jennifer and the DKII Ohana





Senator Inouye, as the national chairman of Joe Biden's 1988 Presidential campaign, introduced Biden at the Wilmington, Delaware announcement on June 9, 1987.

[Click to view video clip from the film "The Journey Begins" from Joe Biden's 1988 Presidential campaign](#)

Vice President Joe Biden swearing in U.S. Senator Dan Inouye on January 5, 2011 -- his ninth term as a U.S. Senator from the great state of Hawaii. Irene Hirano Inouye joins them.



At a reception for family, staff and friends, Senator Dan and Irene Inouye share a moment with Vice President Joe Biden, and his wife, Jill. Also joining in from left to right in the background are Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Donna Tanoue and Walter Dods. January 5, 2011 at the U.S. Capitol

**DKII Hawaii International Film Festival Student Film Initiative:  
"A Message to the President: Transitions in Democracy"**



Building on the success of the last two years, the 2020 DKII Student Film Initiative challenged middle and high school students statewide to explore the ideals of leadership and civic engagement by “*creating a message to the future President*” through a short film.

A time-honored tradition, the outgoing President leaves a handwritten letter to his successor, offering encouragement, words of wisdom, and support. Regardless of political party, winners or losers, these letters have become a symbol of transition in our American democracy, and an opportunity to reflect on the wisdom of those who serve as Commander-in-Chief.

This year’s finalists completed their films in September, well ahead of the General Election, and displaying tremendous insight and creativity as they shared their calls for leadership and messages of hope while remaining socially distant and learning from home. Student videos are posted on our [DKII website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Please join us in recognizing our 2020 DKII Student Film Initiative winners:

**1st Place, High School**

Devan Fujinaka, Iolani School, WITH LOVE

**2nd Place, High School**

Tiffany Liu, Campbell High School, LIGHT

**1st Place, Middle School**

Miley Cox, Waimea Middle School, MY LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT

**2nd Place, Middle School**

Isabella Rose Ciera, Isabella Rodriguez, Luc Giusto, Ewa Makai Middle School, DEAR FUTURE PRESIDENT

**Originality Award**

Noah Raquino, Punahou School, PIECE OF CAKE

All student finalists had the opportunity for a private chat with this year’s DKII Future Filmmaker Ambassador Philippa Soo (OVER THE MOON and Broadway musical HAMILTON star). She was candid, sharing her experiences on Broadway and film, and encouraged the students to pursue their dreams. Winning entries and their schools received Best Buy gift cards to help further their creative endeavors.

## #KindnessHeals Youth Art Project

In celebration of World Kindness Day on Friday November 13, 2020, Act To Change, the Daniel



K. Inouye Institute and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center launched its #KindnessHeals Youth Art Project.

The face mask has become an iconic symbol and essential in the fight against COVID-19. Using a PPE mask as a blank canvas and expression of hope, program organizers are calling on youth from across the United States to submit their PPE mask designs around the theme, “**Kindness**

Heals.”

From the xenophobia towards Asian Americans caused by the global pandemic, to the disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases affecting Pacific Islanders and people of color, to the national uprisings surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, the #KindnessHeals campaign seeks to inspire hope through art as a tumultuous year comes to an end.

Youth ages 13-18 throughout our nation and especially in Hawaii 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) now through Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2021.

Educators and community groups interested in participating may download [educational curriculum and resource materials](#) prepared by the Smithsonian to accompany the #KindnessHeals campaign. In addition to art submissions, participating youth and classes will have the opportunity to engage in various online conversations and virtual exhibitions, culminating in a virtual VIP event in early 2021 with Act To Change Chairperson Maulik Pancholy and other notable AAPI community leaders.

Daniel K. Inouye Institute | [827 Fort Street Mall](http://827FortStreetMall.com), Honolulu, HI 96813