

Speeches and messages: 1961-1963: "As an American of Japanese ancestry..."

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Speeches and messages, Box SP2, Folder 1

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12-1-62

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SECRETARY

As an American of Japanese ancestry in whom the myriad people of Hawaii have placed their faith to represent them in the Senate of the United States of America, I am honored by the invitation to write this preface to the Biographical Record of Americans of Japanese Ancestry.

Our State of Hawaii is popularly known and admired for our harmonious mingling of people representing world-wide national origins. This particular volume is a chronicle of the contributions of Americans of Japanese ancestry to the cultural, economic and professional life of our progressive 50th State. Though it contains the biographies of individuals, it is, in a sense, the collective biography of what has long been the largest ethnic group in Hawaii -- the Japanese.

The Japanese element of Hawaii originally came here in 1885. Those hardy immigrants came by invitation to fill a tremendous gap in the labor supply. From them and from those who followed them have come descendants whose achievements actually have been achievements for Hawaii. In every community, in every area of Hawaii's economic and cultural life, they have given freely of their labors, their talents, their energy to build a better life for all the people of Hawaii.

According to the 1960 United States Census, people of Japanese origin comprise more than 32 percent of Hawaii's total population. Though not all of them, as individuals, could -- or even should -- be listed in a book such as this, it is to these more than 200,000 loyal Americans that this chronicle is primarily directed. Obviously, this Biographical Record is of interest to all residents of Hawaii. It likewise is of interest to people everywhere who look to Hawaii as a leader in the achievement of the highest principles of true brotherhood among men of all races. The biographies presented here tell the story of an important era in the growth and development of our great State.

I am sure this Biographical Record is of particular pride to every American of Japanese ancestry to see such public recognition of those whose achievements have earned them a place in this volume. May this spur our children -- and their children -- to even greater attainments in and for our State of Hawaii.

DANIEL K. INOUE, M.C.