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HAWAII

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COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
and Merchant Marine

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## United States Senate

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November 18, 1996

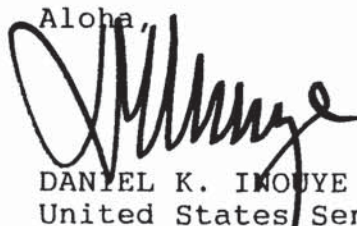
Hawaii Forest Industry Association  
1996 Annual Symposium  
Dole Ballrooms  
Iwilei, Honolulu

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to your 1996 symposium. I regret that I cannot be with you, but wish you success with this important event.

Though many of you have been involved in forestry for many years, you are on the brink of taking on a more important economic role in Hawaii than ever before. I do not need to tell you about the obvious and difficult changes over the last several years in Hawaii agriculture. In the past, there has been a lot of talk about diversifying Hawaii's agricultural base in preparation for inevitable reductions in sugar and pineapple production. For some of us, it was once difficult to imagine a time when sugar would no longer be king in Hawaii. For better or for worse, that time is upon us and I am heartened by the commitment of individuals and organizations like yourselves to take Hawaii into the future.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of the cosponsors of this symposium and all of you in the forest industry for your collaboration, your forward thinking approach and your critical contribution to making diversified and sustainable development an economically viable reality in the State of Hawaii. I was pleased to seek federal financial support for a forestry economic development initiative for Hawaii this year and will do my best to see that this support continues.

Aloha,  
  
DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

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