



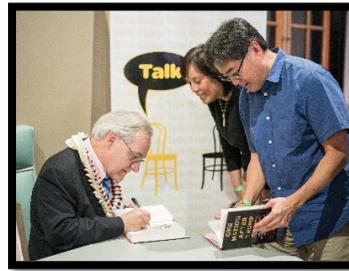
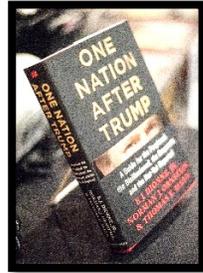
DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

November 20, 2018

Aloha Dear Friends,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we hope this e-newsletter finds you well and enjoying time (and delicious food) with friends and family. As we near the end of 2018, we would like to provide you with a glimpse of insightful conversations on diverse topics with interesting guests that DKII was able to share with the greater community.

We had a thing for E.J. Dione, Washington Post columnist and author of *One Nation After Trump, A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported*.



We invited him to Honolulu in January where he appeared with U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa at one of our “Talk Story” events in partnership with Zocalo Public Square and Hawaii Public Radio. Entitled, “Trump Might be the Best Foil for American Democracy,” Dione and Hanabusa shared their views of our nation’s Capitol one year after Trump’s election to the White House.



While disheartening on some levels, Dione suggested that the large number of young people getting active and wanting their voices heard on a variety of issues provides hope for the future and is a reawakening of a dormant sense of civic responsibility. Democracy is alive. (This we saw during the recent Mid-Term elections!) Hanabusa added the swings to the far left and far right create the bitter divide – when many, likely the majority, simply want an America in the middle.

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Then in July, E.J. Dione joined us for the 4th DKII-Library of Congress lecture in Washington, D.C., “Restoring the American Dream” which focused on the origins of the phrase, the politics around immigration, hope for the future, and journalism as the deliverer of messages, “fake news” and all. Joining Dione was Ross Douthat, columnist for the New York Times and author of *Grand New Party: How Republicans Can Win the Working Class and Save the American Dream.* Librarian Carla Hayden open the evening’s event.



Ann Compton, former ABC White House Correspondent, moderated a lively discussion with a measure of humor and seriousness, even a bit of melancholy at the increasing political divide. They talked religion, race, class and privilege, hope and the future. There were some chuckles when EJ shared a story about Ross Douthat as one of his students at Georgetown University.



There were four video-taped questions from University of Hawaii students addressed to panel members – quite moving, as each of the four came from different backgrounds shared what the “American Dream” meant to them followed by a question. There was a live-stream to the UH Manoa campus, and an elegant dinner with the speakers, congressional members, DKI friends and family which followed in the beautiful atrium of the Library of Congress.



Another favorite used as inspiration for events this year was Senator Inouye's 1968 National Democratic Convention keynote address in riot-ridden, protest-laden Chicago. He was the first person of color to deliver his party's national keynote address. While these words were 50 years old, they remain relevant and poignant today – "My fellow Americans. This is my country. Many of us have fought hard for the right to say that. Many are now struggling today from Harlem to Danang so that they may say this with conviction. This is our country."

The University of Hawaii team put an excellent exhibit together in the Hamilton Library. They provided archive tours, shared excerpts from the collection to include papers, correspondence, photos and video clips of the Senator delivering his speech, conveying not only the power of his words, but also the tumultuous times of a divided nation.



Then in August, we hosted a moving, intense conversation in Los Angeles at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy across the way from the Japanese American National Museum entitled, "Why America Keeps Battling to Live Up to the 14th Amendment". Irene opened the program and set the stage by reading a few of the excerpts from her husband's keynote address – stressing the rights of all Americans, the duties of citizenship and the importance of community cohesion. In listening to the words, they could easily have been written in 2018.



On the panel were: Martha Jones, Johns Hopkins University historian; Garrett Epps, constitutional law scholar; Ali Noorani, Director, National Immigration Forum; and Mitchell Maki, President, Go For Broke National Education Center; with moderator Madeleine Brand of radio station KCRW. The discussion was wide ranging - from the 14th Amendment's post-Civil War origins, today's immigration debates, Japanese American internment, "Birthright Citizenship" to the "elastic" nature of the constitutional guarantee of Equal Protection under the law.

It brought home the truism that no matter how much we may accomplish in the name of civil rights, they can so easily be rolled back, erased or evaporated, and hence the criticality of being vigilant and earnest. It reminded me of one of my favorite Senator quotes, "Democracy is an imperfect experiment, slowly seeking perfection."

Back in Honolulu, we ended our series with a thoughtful discussion on sustainability. We do not need a scientist to tell us Hawaii is at the front lines of climate change. We see it walking along Ala Moana beach, or driving along the rural roads fronting the ocean on all of our islands. We are experiencing floods with greater intensity and frequency.



Entitled, “What Can Hawaii Teach the World About Climate Change”, we welcomed panel members: Robert Lemberg, RAND Corporation scientist & contributor to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Chip Fletcher, University of Hawaii Geologist; and Josh Stanbro, Honolulu Chief Resiliency Officer; with Moderator Catherine Cruz of Hawaii Public Radio.

It was a proactive and practical conversation about the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change. And, how Hawaii thru indigenous knowledge and lessons of long ago are and can live more sustainably. We ended the evening with refreshments (and beautiful flowers) sourced from farmers on all major islands devastated by torrential rain and flooding, and lava flows. A “maxed out” crowd and a good and impactful discussion all the way around!



The trademark for our “Talk Story” events is a Zippy’s booth and table – Senator’s all-around favorite place to eat, his first and last stop in Hawaii. It serves as a simple, yet powerful image - sitting across one another and just taking story.



Stay tuned for our last e-newsletter of 2018 when we will share the results of our first Hawaii International Film Festival – DKI Middle/High School Video Contest. Very inspiring, indeed!

Until then, best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving. Let us say a prayer for those standing in harm’s way so we may enjoy fellowship, freedom and yes, a feast. There is much to be thankful for – With gratitude and blessings to all....

Aloha,
Irene, Kenny and Jennifer