

**Floor Statement of Senator Daniel K. Inouye
In Support of H.R. 1 Conference Report
February 13, 2009**

Mr. President, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a solid bill, and it deserves our support. The final compromises that we made in Conference were difficult, and there is no doubt that those of us on this side of the aisle had to make some difficult decisions and some painful cuts to programs that I believe would have been of great benefit to the American people.

But in the end, I remain convinced that we have gained far more than we have lost, and that this bill is essential to beginning the task of turning our economy around. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will create more than 3.5 million jobs. It will provide tax cuts for working families, aid to our states, and will allow us to invest in our future by rebuilding our roads, schools and mass transit systems.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I know that the \$311 billion in appropriated funds that are contained in this legislation will make a difference as we confront this economic crisis. The funds will prevent lay-offs of state employees, will allow for increased funding for education, healthcare initiatives, improved energy efficiency, and many other vital investments.

With this large influx of federal funding now headed to our states, including my home state of Hawaii, it is essential that each state has a plan of action in place to ensure that these resources are invested quickly and responsibly, and in the right places. In Hawaii, we have established working groups of state and local officials and community leaders to identify priorities that will have the most effective and timely economic impact in local communities throughout the state.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to take a moment to thank the Members and staff of the Appropriations Committee for all of their dedication and hard work in taking this bill from conception to completed legislation in a matter of just a few months. On our Committee, we have 12 subcommittees, each of which was involved in this bill. It is the subcommittees, the Chairmen and Ranking Members, who along with their subcommittee Clerks and staff, are the people who have carried the load on this bill. The Senate owes them its gratitude.

At this time, I want to inform the Senate that division A of the conference report on H.R. 1 does not contain any congressional directed spending items as defined in rule 44 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

There is no quick fix or easy answer to this grave economic crisis, but I am confident that this plan will begin to put America on the road to recovery.

I believe the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is the right medicine for what ails our national economy. It will not fix our problems overnight, but it will begin the process. We face some tough times in the coming year, but this legislation will have an impact, it will help millions of Americans directly and indirectly. It will give America confidence that we can overcome this crisis.