

# Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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## **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS APPROVES \$ 1 MILLION JOINT FUNDING FOR HAWAII AND ALASKA FOR MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WASHINGTON – Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Senator Mark Begich of Alaska announced today that the Senate Appropriations Committee, which Senator Inouye chairs, has provided their states with \$1 million joint funding for marine education and training efforts as part of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act in the Senate version of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill, which was passed out of the committee today.**

**The Pacific Islands Fisheries Regional Office and the Alaska Regional Office will collaborate to establish and maintain a marine education and training program to support the nation's ocean literacy and education. The purpose of the program will be to build on, and work with, existing education programs in the region while expanding them to target groups who are traditionally less likely to enter the marine science fields. The program will incorporate local and traditional knowledge into ecosystem-based management, increase ocean literacy and facilitate educational partnerships within and between regions.**

**“We are pleased that this funding will give Alaska Natives, indigenous Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and other under-represented populations in the region access to marine-related education and employment opportunities not otherwise available to them,” said Senators Inouye and Begich.**

**The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization of 2006 authorized the establishment of a regionally-based Marine Education and Training program, in cooperation with the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils.**