

House of Representatives in March 1959, there were no fewer than 88 bills pending that would have, if enacted, admitted Hawaii as a State. The people of Hawaii, through our territorial legislature, had petitioned the Congress for statehood on 17 different occasions.

Back in the fifties, times were very different. In those days, the concept of statehood for a group of tiny islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean seemed far-fetched to many. However, the admission of Alaska removed the doubts of those who felt the United States should be one contiguous land mass.

After nearly 40 years of Congressional debates, investigations, hearings, and visitations, we achieved what so many of us in the Territory of Hawaii deeply desired. The State of Hawaii has come a long way since 1959 and I am very proud of the achievements of the people of Hawaii. I believe Hawaii has proven to be a credit to our Nation. I would like to take this opportunity to give my colleagues some insight into the tremendous changes that have taken place in the 50th State over the past 40 years.

Hawaii has the reputation of being the "Health State," and that reputation is well deserved. We lead the Nation in providing access to health care with more than 96 percent of the Hawaii population having health insurance. Hawaii leads the Nation with the lowest number of deaths from breast cancer, and ranks second in the Nation for the lowest number of deaths due to all cancers, heart disease, and diabetes.

Our territory of 600,000 American citizens in 1959 has more than doubled in 40 years. No territory, with the exception of Oklahoma, ever possessed a population as large as Hawaii's at the time it sought statehood in the Union. Consider these facts. In 1959, Hawaii contributed into the U.S. Treasury \$166 million in taxes, putting Hawaii ahead of 10 States in taxpayer contributions. The per capita income of Hawaii was \$1,821, ranking it 25th amongst the States, and the total income was more than in eight States. Current per capita income is more than 14 times that original amount, ranking Hawaii 15th amongst the States. Further, last year the people of Hawaii contributed \$2.7 billion to Federal coffers in the form of taxes.

In 1959, sugar was king; 974,000 tons of sugar were produced in Hawaii. Though sugar is no longer king in Hawaii, agriculture has and continues to be a significant contributor to the state's economy providing nearly \$3 billion in sales and more than 40,000 jobs. Sugar remains an important crop and pineapple production has been stable for many years. Additionally, diversified agriculture, including flowers, fruits, vegetables, macadamia nuts, coffee, and livestock, is a very bright spot in our State's economy. It is one of the few economic sectors experiencing growth. In 1987, diversified crops surpassed sugar in farm fate value in Hawaii and never looked back. After its

pristine beaches and warm tropical waters, Hawaii's attraction lies in its green space. Without agricultural production, much of this lush green environment, many come to expect of Hawaii, would be lost.

With sugar's downsizing, Hawaii is taking advantage of an opportunity that has been available in the islands in 150 years, that is, agricultural land is available in large quantities. The State is now taking an unobstructed look at agriculture in its broadest sense. Beyond traditional products, Hawaii and its year-round growing capability is ripe for development of high value products like herbal dietary supplements, cosmetics, ethical drugs, specialized fruits and vegetables, and natural industrial products. There is also potential for agriculture as a service industry in the areas of bioremediation of contaminants, carbon sequestering forest production, seed testing and propagation for use worldwide, and development of innovative pest management strategies.

The State of Hawaii has become a world class player in the science and technology arena. Manua Kea, on the Island of Hawaii, is known internationally as the best site for optical, infrared, and millimeter/submillimeter astronomy. It is the chosen site for all four of the new generation of 8- or 10-meter class telescopes now under construction in the Northern Hemisphere. The observatories include: the Gemini project, the Keck Observatory, Canada-France-Hawaii, the Joint Astronomy Center, Subaru, Smithsonian, and the California Institute of Technology. Eight nations are represented atop Manua Kea with the United States' presence most prominent.

The Maui Research and Technology Park is fast earning a reputation as one of the world's most sophisticated high technology centers. MRTP is home to the Maui High Performance Computing Center, the newest of 12 national supercomputing resource centers.

The University of Hawaii's successful cloning of three generations of mice from adult cells stunned the international scientific community and has brought significant prestige and attention to the University and the State.

Forty years ago, when the Members of Congress debated the suitability of Hawaii as a state, questions were raised about our Americanism. During World War II, the loyalty and patriotism of Americans of Japanese ancestry living in Hawaii were called into question. When we finally received the call to duty in early 1943, 1,500 Hawaii volunteers were sought by the U.S. Army. In less than a week, 15,000 had volunteered, and Hawaii was not yet a State.

We continue our strong commitment to military service. Hawaii is home to all the services, and we continue to demonstrate our support for our nation's military as a member of our Hawaii community. We are home to the USS *Missouri* and the USS *Arizona* me-

morials which symbolize the beginning and end of World War II, and pay tribute to the many brave men and women who have their lives for our nation. Hawaii has been bestowed with this high honor of stewardship that we will proudly uphold.

Tripler Army Medical Center is a leader in medical care, medical education, and research. It has also earned national recognition for its work in telehealth technology applications, most appropriately called AKAMAII which in Hawaiian means "brilliant or smart." The state-of-the-art Spark M. Matsunaga Veterans Medical Center will open in early 2000 at Tripler, and the two agencies have worked collaboratively to integrate services and information systems, providing both active duty personnel and veterans with the best medical care available anywhere. We are also very proud of the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, a military-civilian partnership that facilitates joint disaster response operations through research, education, and information management.

It is clear that none of the concerns expressed in those years preceding statehood have become reality. Hawaii did not fall to communism. Hawaii's distance has not diminished the strength of the United States, but in fact has enhanced its military and economic power into the Asia-Pacific region. Further, Hawaii remains one of the greatest examples of a multiethnic society living in relative peace.

I have had the privilege of serving the people of Hawaii in the U.S. Congress since statehood. Over these years, the people of Hawaii have proven their unfailing loyalty and devotion to America's ideals. Hawaii's achievements are a testament to our desire to continually share the best of who we are and what we have to offer our fellow Americans.

So, as we celebrate 40 years of statehood, Hawaii looks toward the new millennium with pride, dignity and the hope for an even brighter future.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on Friday, July 16, 1999, I was necessarily absent during Senate action on rollcall vote No. 211, a motion to invoke cloture on Amendment No. 297, a Lott amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 557, an original bill to provide guidance for the designation of emergencies as a part of the budget process.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted against cloture.

RENOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN LINDA J. MORGAN TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the renomination by the President of Linda J. Morgan to another term with the Surface Transportation Board, and his express intention to re-designate her as Chairman.