

Law School Address
September 4, 1973

As the Chief Justice of the State of Hawaii, I greet you today as fellow participants in our history. As an attorney, I greet you as colleagues in the pursuit of law. As one of your alma mater's band of midwives, I greet you as the first-born Class of '76.

Dean Hood has indicated to me that for every one of you, there were 17 other applicants pounding on the doors. I can therefore well imagine what being a member of this select group must mean to you. To me, and to the people of Hawaii, you represent no less than the realization of a dream.

For too many years, I have seen Hawaii residents denied a legal education simply because the crush of admissions has caused Mainland schools to discriminate in favor of their residents and against ours. Of those who take the Bar Exam each year in Hawaii, sometimes as few as five percent are ~~from~~ *local applicants* here.

- 2 -

The founding of this law school means greater opportunity for our young people in particular and for the State in general. There are people, of course, who objected to this venture. We don't have the money, they said; We don't need a law school now. I can hear the opposition even yet. When the final ballot was taken, the division was more or less along party lines, and our margin of victory was one solitary vote.

Ours was a long-range view, and fortunately, it prevailed. Hawaii has gone too long without a law school, especially when you consider that these Islands can bring certain exceptional attributes to the study of law. As Hawaii becomes more involved with international business and trade, our need for people conversant in international ^{or comparative} law should also increase. Considering that Japan's gross national product will probably eclipse ours before the year 2000, and the other

Pacific Basin countries such as Australia, China, Hong Kong and the South American nations are growing at a fast clip, our business dealings with them should reach their height when you will be in the prime of your legal careers.

Our mid-Pacific locus may be reason enough for this law school eventually to specialize in various aspects of international law. Increasing interactions among nations and increasing ecological concerns promise to make the law of the sea an especially crucial field. We could contribute to its substantive enlargement and extension, since we have easy access to the study of such problems as the preservation of reefs, contamination of the ocean, exploitation of seabeds, and even other far-reaching domestic and international policies as underwater demolitions, territorial fishing rights and the governing of the artificial creation of phenomena such as tidal waves.

We may be getting ahead of ourselves when we talk of such things. After all, we've only just started, and the law is a science that requires long study and experience---in fact, a lifetime's worth. And you will probably feel you have been through the mill before you even get through these next three years. During your legal career, I think probably every single one of you will experience your share of frustrations. I can only go along with Justice Frankfurter, who once said that "lawyers better remember they are human beings, and a human being who hasn't his periods of doubt and distresses and disappointments must be a cabbage, not a human being."

Despite its frustrations, law remains a vital, attractive profession. In Hawaii, it has supplied us with the preponderant amount of our leaders and policymakers. As they have helped to shape Hawaii, you can shape its future. As you

progress, so should this school. I hope it will excel, that it will not be run-of-the-mill, that it will keep the law alive, that it will think in terms of the future and what can be. To begin, the Judiciary expects to furnish some assistance, and we expect that you will furnish us with relevant criticism and other input. For, as Judge Learned Hand once noted in a speech before a reknowned law school, "It is not in books that the law can live, but in the consciousness of the profession as a whole. Judges, dressed with their brief authority, may seem to speak more finally, but it is only for the moment. In the end, they take their cues from the bar and the great schools, like this, which slowly form the moulds."