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SENATOR INOUYE'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE JONES ACT

June 16, 2010

WASHINGTON— Senator Daniel K. Inouye issued the following statement after suggestions that the Jones Act be suspended to allow foreign vessels to assist with the oil spill cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico.

"I was taken aback by the suggestion that we suspend the Jones Act to bring in foreign ships to deal with the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf. That is not necessary. American vessels from the Navy, Coast Guard, state and county governments are working with private citizens and foreign vessels in support of the clean-up effort. To suggest that we suspend the Jones Act to allow foreign ships into the Gulf is more about pushing a political agenda than any genuine interest in helping Gulf coast communities with their clean-up. We are already at the mercy of foreign competitors when it comes to oil, we should not add shipping to that list," said U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

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