

11/26

Claims in 29th's petition 'dismay' Inouye

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye yesterday strongly supported the call-up of the 29th Brigade and took issue with almost every point raised in a petition being circulated by troops at Schofield Barracks who want to get out of the Army.

Inouye's stand, voiced in a speech last night at Ft. Shafter to the Hawaii chapter of the Defense Supply Association, put him sharply at odds with his fellow senator, Hiram L. Fong.

Fong repeatedly has called for deactivation of the 29th. Inouye said he was "dismayed" at statements that appeared in the petition which he feels are either false or misleading.

HE SAID he sympathizes with men who want to return to civilian life but he was dis-

turbed that the petition would label service in the 29th a "waste of six months or more of their lives."

"I cannot believe that the men who signed the petition felt that they belonged to a class of men superior to that of their friends and neighbors who are serving our country as draftees," he said.

Inouye said he was "dismayed" by the suggestion made in the petition that the Army Reserve was intended to serve as a sanctuary from war or "hazardous duty."

He pointed out that it costs Congress and the taxpayers much to maintain reserve units who have PX, hospitalization, retirement and other military privileges.

INOUE SAID the phrase "unit integrity" was never

meant to mean that the present membership of the 29th "would be always kept intact and that the men would always be together and never separated."

He pointed out that the "unit integrity" of the 25th Division was maintained even though the men who trained at Schofield are no longer with the division in Vietnam.

In the same way Inouye pointed out that the 29th's unit integrity at Schofield will be maintained even though individual soldiers are levied for duty in Vietnam.

Recalling his own service in World War II, Inouye said he understands and sympathizes with the desire of the petitioners to return to civilian life.

"None of us," he said,

"wanted to kill and be killed."

Inouye spoke of having given much thought to the problem of sending individual members or the entire unit to Vietnam. Citing unit morale and effectiveness, he said he would favor the latter method.

But he also spoke of another consideration:

"Today we find that the name of a Hawaii man is placed on the Vietnam combat death roster at a rate of about one man per week.

"IF THE 29TH was sent into battle as a unit, the rate . . . would most certainly be increased to about five every combat day.

"Pride and glory are im-