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Aloha,

I would like to say mahalo to all of you for helping the Big Island address the devastation that is crystal methamphetamine – a problem that can only be described as an epidemic that threatens our Island's future.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Administrator Aaa Hutchinson, and Mr. Jim Capple. This important summit would not have been possible without their support. I look forward to continuing this joint effort to ensure that our community has the tools necessary to find a solution to the "ice" issue.

Today's gathering is an opportunity for all of us to work together to begin the process of healing our Island. We now know that we cannot successfully address the problems associated with substance abuse – addiction, property crimes, domestic violence, child neglect and abuse – without a collective effort from every member of our community. The overwhelming response to this summit is indicative of the magnitude of this problem.

I humbly ask all of you for your continued participation in finding an answer to this problem that threatens us all. With everyone's commitment, we can achieve our goal of a brighter future for the Big Island.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
MAYOR