

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

June 22, 2013

Stone Soup Leadership Institute  
P.O. Box 4551  
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

Dear Youth Delegates,

Aloha and welcome to the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development on Martha's Vineyard.

Our nation and planet face immense challenges to create a more sustainable future. This Summit presents an opportunity for you to engage in meaningful dialogue to address important issues and propose viable solutions to these problems. Through this collaborative process, there is great potential to produce meaningful solutions.

I commend each one of you for answering the call to "think globally, act locally." Each one of you comes from different places and brings different life experiences; yet, acting collectively, you are interconnected. You understand that each one of us needs to take responsibility for our actions in order to make a difference. Making our country more sustainable is not a simple task, but all of you young leaders give me great hope for the future.

I understand there are participants from Lanai and Hawaii Island at this year's Summit and one of your speakers is Trevor Tanaka, a Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative alumnus. These individuals from Hawaii bring with them a unique perspective growing up on an island state and witnessing first-hand what is happening to Hawaii's fragile environment.

Thank you to the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and its sister program the Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative for their ongoing efforts in enabling the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator