

Use one of the speeches in 105-extracted-date or 106-extracted-date, of your own choice and treat every single speech as a document.

For example, if I use 105-extracted-date/105-akaka-hi.txt, each speech starts with <DOC> and ends with </DOC>.

<DOC>

<DOCNO>105-akaka-hi-1-19981021</DOCNO>

<TEXT>

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate passed H.R. 4110, the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998. This measure strives to improve the services and benefits provided to our nation's veterans by amending several health, education, housing, and other benefits programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am especially pleased that the measure contains two provisions which I have been working on. Section 603 of the bill will extend the eligibility of members of the National Guard and Reserve for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Loan Guaranty Program. The provision will ensure that the men and women in the Selected Reserve will continue to be eligible for this program through September 30, 2003. Under current law, authorization for the program is scheduled to expire in October 1999.

As the author of legislation in 1992 which extended eligibility for VA-guaranteed home loans to National Guard and Reserve members who complete six years of service, I am pleased with the participation in the program by members of the Selected Reserve. The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program for Guard and Reserve members has provided many individuals and families with a needed opportunity to obtain a mortgage in order to purchase a home, many for the first time. The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program is not only beneficial for members of the Selected Reserve, it also contributes to the financial viability of the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program since the origination fees paid by Reservists more than offset the cost of additional loan guarantees. I am gratified that the home loan program will continue to be made available to members of the National Guard and Reserves who have served our country.

I am also pleased with the inclusion of Section 706 in H.R. 4110. This provision would prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from establishing or collecting parking fees at the Spark M. Matsunaga Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Under current law, the VA is required to charge its users and employees to park at facilities built with special revolving funds. In Hawaii, the VA parking structure is located on the grounds of the Tripler Army Medical Hospital and will be shared by VA and the Department of Defense. The joint VA/DOD parking facility would result in an administrative nightmare if parking fees were required to be assessed for VA medical employees and visitors but not DOD personnel and visitors. Furthermore, the costs of administering the parking fees far outweigh the revenues that would be generated from the assessment of nominal parking charges. The waiver of parking fees for the VA parking structure at Tripler Army Medical Center will ensure that all visitors and employees enjoy free and equal access to the facilities.

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Find the most similar speech to the very first speech for the senator you choose. Are the speeches becoming more similar or dissimilar over time? Explore different measures of similarity.

Bonus 5 point: Add to your stopwords list the words in 'droplist.txt' located in your input folder.

How does your analysis change with different text preprocessing?

Good luck,  
Arieda