

**STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
MARCH 22, 2001 HEARING
ON THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES
OF THE
MEMBER TRIBES
OF THE
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
FOR THE
107TH SESSION OF THE CONGRESS**

The Committee on Indian Affairs meets this afternoon for the first in a series of hearings on the goals and priorities of Indian country for the 107th session of the Congress.

I wish to underscore that this hearing is the first in a series of hearings, because one of the Tribal Nations has registered an objection to this hearing on the grounds that they are not members of the National Congress.

I want to make clear that the committee will be soliciting the views

and concerns of all of the Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Communities and Native Hawaiian Organizations.

The Committee decided to begin with the National Congress of American Indians, because it is the oldest and largest national organization, having been founded in 1944 and which currently represents 250 Tribal Nations.

On behalf of the Committee, I want to welcome the President of the National Congress of American Indians and Chairperson of the Yurok Tribe, the Honorable Sue Masten, back to the Committee.