

**STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
JUNE 21, 2001 HEARING
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS INITIATIVES
AT THE
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

The Committee meets this morning to receive testimony on Native American program initiatives at the college and university level.

These programs are addressing needs in Indian Country that have been around for a long time .

Thankfully, because of the energy and initiative of a few institutions, we are beginning to see an important and substantive response.

Together, these programs hold the potential for significantly enhancing the thoughtful development of Indian policy –

- Through an understanding of what is working in Indian Country and why;**

- **Through access to training in governmental processes and policy formulation;**
- **Through an examination of the laws and policies that affect indigenous people world wide; and**
- **Through the ability to conduct research and develop data that will address the need for information upon which intelligent decisions can be made.**

We applaud those who are here today and commend them for their efforts.

This is some of the good news of the many positive things that are going on in Indian Country.

Because they carry on their work in quiet ways, and because their work may not be the stuff that newspaper headlines are made of, we thought it was important that their efforts be brought to the attention of the Congress and the American public, and that is, quite simply, why we are here today.

May I welcome all of the witnesses who join us here today.

Welcome to the Committee.