

**STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
MARCH 5, 2002
OVERSIGHT HEARING
ON THE
PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST
FOR
INDIAN PROGRAMS
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2003**

The committee meets this morning for the first in a series of three hearings on the President's budget request for Indian programs for fiscal year 2003.

This first hearing will focus on Indian programs administered by the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education.

In addition, those Indian programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that are outside the Indian Health Service will be addressed today.

On Thursday of this week, March 7th, the Committee will receive testimony from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Indian Health Service.

And on Thursday of next week, March 14th, the Committee will receive testimony on the President's budget request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In those coming hearings, the Committee will be exploring how the United States' trust responsibility for Indian lands and resources would be maintained if the President's proposals to privatize the administration of federal programs are approved by the Congress.

Today, however, we look forward to hearing from the federal agencies as to the objectives that the President's budget request for the Indian programs under their respective jurisdictions seeks to accomplish in fiscal year 2003.