

**STATEMENT**  
**OF**  
**SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**BEFORE THE**  
**AUGUST 1, 2002**  
**HEARING**  
**ON THE**  
**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR**  
**ON THE**  
**HOOPA-YUROK SETTLEMENT ACT**

The Committee meets today to receive testimony on the Report of the Secretary of the Interior on the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act, submitted to the Congress in March of 2002 pursuant to section 14( ) of Public Law 100-580.

As with almost all matters in Indian Affairs, there is a long history that preceded the enactment of the legislation that the Secretary's report addresses – it is a history of deception, I am sad to say, of a Senate that apparently met in secret session in 1852 and rejected the treaties that had been negotiated with California tribes, and didn't disclose their action for another forty-three years.

In the interim, the California tribes proceeded in good faith, relying upon their contracts with the United States government.

In 1864, the Congress enacted legislation to establish four reservations in the State of California with the intent that these reservations would serve as the new homeland for tribes that had no cultural, linguistic, or historical ties to one another.

The Hoopa Valley Reservation was one such reservation that was established for “the Indians of the Reservation”.

Litigation later spawned a series of a series of court rulings, which while resolving the issues before each court, engendered considerable uncertainty into the daily lives of those who resided on the reservation, and soon, the Congress was called upon to bring some final resolution to the matter.

Today, as we receive on the Secretary's report, it is clear that a final resolution was not achieved through the enactment of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act in 1988, and that the Congress will once again have to act.

Accordingly, we look forward to the testimony we will receive today so that the Committee and members of Congress may have a strong substantive foundation upon which to construct a final solution.