

STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
MAY 21, 2003 OVERSIGHT HEARING
ON THE
REORGANIZATION
OF THE
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND THE
OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE

I want to thank my Chairman for scheduling this hearing today, for everywhere I have traveled in Indian country in recent days, there has been a keen interest expressed in the reorganization plan and what new responsibilities will now be delegated to the Office of Special Trustee.

There are many detailed questions about this plan, for instance the role of the trust officers at the local level – many of which we have sent to the Department as part of this Committee’s role in addressing the President’s Request for Indian Programs for Fiscal Year 2004.

We look forward today to developing a better understanding of the issues those questions address.

I want to join the Chairman in welcoming our old friend, Ross Swimmer, and the Assistant Secretary, Ms. Martin, back to the Committee.