

SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Hearing on FY 2005 Budget
FEBRUARY 11, 2004

I wish to thank Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Inouye for holding this important hearing today where we will examine the President's FY 2005 budget request for Indian programs. I also wish to thank our witnesses and look forward to hearing their testimony.

Over the years, this Committee, under the leadership of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, has worked with Indian Country to address the challenges facing native peoples across the country. We welcome the advances in areas such as health care, but to continue making progress in this and other areas, more needs to be done. As we will hear from our witnesses, there are still many more challenges that remain and I will work with my colleagues to increase funding to meet the needs of all native peoples.