

**STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
APRIL 30, 2002
JOINT HEARING
ON
S. 2335, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE
OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS, TO CREATE THE NATIVE
AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

The Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on small business and entrepreneurship meet today to receive testimony on the challenges confronting the formation, development and growth of small businesses in Indian country.

The Committees will also receive testimony on s. 2335, a bill introduced by senators Johnson, Kerry, Cantwell, Wellstone, Daschle, Baucus, Bingaman, Stabenow, Clinton.

I am also pleased to serve as a co-sponsor of this measure.

S. 2335 provides statutory authority for the establishment of the

Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business

Administration, and further provides for the establishment of the Native American Small Business Development Program.

On behalf of both Committees, I must advise the witnesses for today's hearing that we have several Committees meeting at the same time today.

And so, to enable members who have to chair other hearings to do so, there will be several Senators chairing this hearing, and we will have to complete this hearing by 11:00 a.m.

Accordingly, we would be most grateful if the witnesses for today's hearing could limit their testimony to no more than five minutes.

And now may I call upon senator Wellstone, who is joining me today in chairing this important hearing on behalf of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.