

STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
FEBRUARY 25, 2003
HEARING
ON
S. 344
A BILL EXPRESSING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES
REGARDING THE UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP
WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND TO PROVIDE
A PROCESS FOR THE RECOGNITION BY THE
UNITED STATES OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN
GOVERNING ENTITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Good morning. The Committee on Indian Affairs meets this morning to receive testimony on S. 344, a bill expressing the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, and for other purposes.

S. 344 was introduced on February 12, 2003, by Senator Daniel Akaka, and was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

It is my honor to serve as an original co-sponsor of the measure.

Before I call upon the Chairman of the Committee, I would like to remind those present here today and those who are watching this hearing of the historical events that have brought us here today.

On June 17, 1893, the government of Hawaii was overthrown with the assistance and direct involvement of the United States minister who authorized U.S. marine troops to assist in the overthrow of a stable government.

Prior to its overthrow, that government enjoyed international recognition from countries around the world and carried on treaty relationships with Great Britain and France.

One hundred years later, the United States government approved a resolution – now known as the “Apology Resolution” in which the United States formally extended an apology to the Native Hawaiian people for America’s role in the overthrow of their government.

We are here today to consider a bill that would restore the government that represented the Native people of Hawaii to its rightful status amongst domestic sovereigns of the United States, in the same manner that other governments representing the Native people of the United States are recognized by the Federal government.

With that, may I call upon the distinguished Chairman of this Committee, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell.