

**STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
BEFORE THE
JUNE 28, 2005 HEARING
ON THE
REGULATION OF INDIAN GAMING**

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

I COMMEND THE COMMITTEE FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING ON THE REGULATION OF INDIAN GAMING SPECIFICALLY TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF TRIBES.

INDIAN GAMING HAS GROWN TO A MULTIBILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY. THERE ARE OVER 200 INDIAN TRIBES THAT HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS THRIVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF INDIAN GAMING, THEY THINK OF THE WEALTHIER TRIBES, WHICH OFTEN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AN IDEAL LOCATION.

SO I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO HEAR FROM THOSE TRIBES THAT RELY ON INDIAN GAMING THE MOST - THOSE THAT ARE LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS OR FACE OTHER CHALLENGES.

INDIAN TRIBES, INCLUDING THE LESS WEALTHY TRIBES, HAVE ACCEPTED THE CALL FOR REGULATION AND HAVE DEVELOPED STATE OF THE ART SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS AND OTHER MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF INDIAN GAMING.

THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS TO IDENTIFY CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY VISITORS WHO SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM AND REPORTED THOSE ACTIVITIES TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN MUCH BENEFIT TO INDIAN TRIBES - BOTH SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO LISTENING TO THE TESTIMONIES OF TODAY'S WITNESSES.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN FOR SCHEDULING THIS HEARING TODAY.