

SENATOR AKAKA'S STATEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF AKAKA
AMENDMENTS 1 AND 2 TO S.1649

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to offer two amendments, and discuss a third amendment, to the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Prevention and Preparedness Act (S. 1649).

My first amendment puts into place a mechanism to implement an energy development program that will foster international cooperative efforts for alternative energy. This amendment is identical to a bill that I introduced last month, the Energy Development Program Implementation Act of 2009 (S.1675). It supports a Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism (Commission) finding to encourage the development of a variety of non-nuclear, alternative energy sources with developing countries, in a way that could reduce the chances of nuclear technology ending up in the wrong hands. This amendment has the support of the Commission, the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

My second amendment addresses a number of the Commission's nuclear security findings. This amendment is very similar to a bill that I introduced yesterday, the Strengthening the Oversight of Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 2009 (S.1931). It calls for a recurring annual report about U.S. efforts to better secure the most dangerous nuclear materials, the amount of funding used to support nuclear development abroad, and a U.S. assessment of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inspection capabilities. It also calls for a one-time report about our cooperative efforts working with the IAEA to strengthen nonproliferation efforts.

Finally, I would like to discuss my third amendment, which I am not offering today. It is identical to the National Foreign Language Coordination Act of 2009 (S.1010), which I

introduced with bipartisan support earlier this year. I have introduced this legislation in previous Congresses, and it has passed the Senate three times as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

This amendment addresses ongoing shortcomings in national language capabilities. A few years ago, the Bush Administration proposed a narrow program that would address language needs among four agencies involved in national security. It has not produced the lasting results the country needs. I strongly believe that the United States needs to instead have a coordinated plan of action and long-term leadership to address its broader language needs. I understand that there are some concerns about how to ensure accountability with the leadership structure established in my amendment, and I appreciate the willingness of both your staff and Senator Collins's staff to work through the issues involved. I look forward to working with both of you to resolve any concerns so that we can include this important provision in the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act as it moves forward.