

**Statement of Senator Daniel K. Akaka
Nomination Hearing for Maribeth Raffinan
to be an Associate Judge of
the District of Columbia Superior Court**

September 21, 2010

This hearing will now come to order. Aloha and welcome here today as this Committee considers the nomination of Maribeth Raffinan to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

I am pleased that Ms. Raffinan is yet another well qualified individual nominated by the President from a group of candidates recommended to him by the non-partisan Judicial Nomination Commission.

I am confident that if confirmed, she will join the others who have appeared before this Committee in making valuable contributions to the District of Columbia.

Ms. Raffinan has devoted her entire legal career to public service. She currently is an attorney with the D.C. Public Defender Service, where she has worked for eleven years providing legal services to those who could not otherwise afford such representation. I believe she has much to offer the D.C. Superior Court bench and I hope we can act quickly to confirm her.