

Introduction by Senator Daniel K. Akaka

Nomination of Rafael Borrás to be Under Secretary for Management, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

April 6, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am delighted to be here as we consider Rafael Borrás to continue as Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mr. Borrás to the Committee once again.

I first met Mr. Borrás in 2009 before his confirmation hearing. I told him then that Elaine Duke was leaving him big shoes to fill at DHS, but that I believed he was up to the task. Now, after over a year on the job, he has demonstrated his ability to improve the focus on management as priority at the Department.

Before coming to DHS, Under Secretary Borrás had over twenty years of federal, local, and private sector management experience. During his tenure as Under Secretary, he has made improving acquisitions and financial management, along with right-sizing the contractor workforce at DHS, top priorities.

I am pleased that he has also been focusing on getting DHS off the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) high-risk list, where it has been since the Department was created in 2003. His office recently sent GAO and the Committee a detailed strategic plan for better management integration at the Department.

I want to emphasize how impressed I have been with Mr. Borrás's engagement with us. Last year, my friend and former Ranking Member, Senator Voinovich, and I held a series of monthly meetings with Under Secretary Borrás to keep our management subcommittee up-to-date on his progress. He has continued to keep the Subcommittee apprised of management issues and has made himself available to the committee and our staff.

I will not go on about his qualifications, except to say that I believe Under Secretary Borrás has demonstrated his ability to lead DHS's management directorate and I support his confirmation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.