

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

November 20, 2012

This hearing will now come to order. Aloha and welcome. Today, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs meets to consider the nomination of Robert Okun to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

I would like to welcome my good friend from the District of Columbia, Congresswoman Norton, to the Committee. As you know, I am retiring in a few weeks so this will be our last nomination hearing together. She has been a great partner in our work to improve the District and has been a zealous advocate for its residents for 22 years and counting. I want to thank her for all she has done and wish her well in the work ahead.

I believe that our nominee is well-qualified and will join the others who have appeared before us in making valuable contributions to the D.C. bench. Mr. Okun is chief of the Special Proceedings Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He is a dedicated public servant with years of criminal and civil law experience.

I want to say a special thank you, or "mahalo," to Mr. Okun's family and friends who are with us today. The love and support of those around us enables us to accomplish great things so we should be thankful for all that they do.

I hope that the Committee and the Senate can act quickly to confirm the nominee.