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May 7, 2009

**The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510**

Dear Senator Cochran:

During our forthcoming deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we would appreciate your consideration of providing \$35 million for each of the Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian educational programs. We also recommend \$12 million for the Title III Higher Education Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions. We recommend \$9.0 million for the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) program. Each of these initiatives is authorized and has served the native peoples of our States admirably for a number of years. This past Congress, a new Improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education with a Focus on Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Students was authorized. Accordingly, providing start up support for this new program would also be appreciated.

We certify that neither of us nor our immediate families have a pecuniary interest in the Congressionally directed spending item(s) that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Aloha,



**DANIEL K. INOUYE
United States Senator**

DKI:phdb



**LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator**