



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

For immediate release: Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Contact: Tom Gavin, 202-224-3904

U.S. Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Opening Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Inouye

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee on Wednesday held a hearing to examine the Fiscal 2008 budget for the Department of Defense. As part of that hearing, Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Inouye delivered the following opening remarks.

Secretary England, we appreciate your appearing before the Subcommittee today as we begin our review of the Administration's FY 2008 Department of Defense budget request. We are also glad to welcome the Honorable Ms. Jonas, the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Admiral Giambastiani, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The budget request before this subcommittee is \$463.2 billion, an increase of 11 percent over the FY 2007 budget. In addition, the Department is requesting \$141 billion to continue the Global War on Terror in FY 2008. These two budgets bring the total request for the Department's operations in FY 2008 to \$604.2 billion. This represents an enormous investment for the American taxpayer – an investment which although necessary has the unintended consequence of reducing opportunities to invest in other critically important sectors such as education and health.

Mr. Secretary, we share your mandate to ensure a strong defense for our nation and look forward to discussing Defense priorities and challenges. I believe every member on this Subcommittee will agree that our men and women in uniform deserve the best leadership, equipment, and training that can be provided. I'd add that we also expect them to receive fair compensation and compassionate care when wounded or ill.

As stewards of our national treasure, we must be sure that these funds are used efficiently and effectively. Getting the best value for the American people is imperative. Today, and over the course of the next several weeks, we look forward to hearing what steps the Department is taking to reduce costs and improve business practices so that future budget requests avoid unwarranted cost increases.

Secretary England, thank you for appearing today. Your full statement will be made part of the record. But before we begin, let me turn to my Vice-Chairman, Senator Stevens, for his opening remarks.

###