

Federal Detention Center Fifth Anniversary Remarks  
Friday, July 14, 2006

Aloha and Good Morning. On behalf of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, I would like to congratulate Warden John Rathman and his amazing Staff at our Federal Detention Center (FDC), on their Fifth Anniversary here in Hawaii.

It seems like yesterday, that I first came to this facility for its dedication. At that time, I was just like any other Assistant U.S. Attorney with a heavy caseload in our office. But, my nomination by the President to be the U.S. Attorney was pending.

As an AUSA for approximately 11 years, I had already realized the need and the value of having a Federal Detention Center in Hawaii. Prior to the opening of this facility, as our Chief Judge just said, we would hold some of them at our State Correctional Facilities here in the state.

However, most of our detainees were sent to Alameda, California, and elsewhere on the mainland. As you know, this was not only costly and time consuming for us, but it presented attorney-client and judicial issues as well. Thus, your opening here in Hawaii was welcomed with open arms.

Throughout the years, the FDC has not only established itself as a very necessary part of the Federal Government's presence in Hawaii --- but, it has also established itself as a source of accomplishment and pride, --- due mainly to the outstanding performance of those professional men and women who work here.

And we are all very proud of you, because I consider this facility to be one of the best run in the Nation. But, greatness must also be attributed to leadership --- and we have had nothing but the best leaders heading this great facility.

Warden Booker, Warden Keffer, and Warden Rathman have been the best that the Bureau of Prisons could have given us, and I am very thankful for their contributions to justice and to the safety of our citizens in Hawaii.

Since its activation five years ago, as Warden Rathman said, over 3,300 inmates have entered this facility, a place that I now proudly call "Camp Kubo."

There are almost 700 presently here now --- some have been detained for dangerousness and some are considered a flight risk. Yet, there are others here who have in fact been convicted for violent and narcotic trafficking crimes.

It takes hard work to maintain law and order under these challenging circumstances, and that is why I would also like to thank all of you dedicated professionals who work here day in and day out for your tireless efforts.

And so, I come here today, to recognize your accomplishments and to congratulate each of you for the success of this Facility, --- and especially for playing a vital role in the safety of our community.

May the next five years continue to bring you much success and recognition. Again, we are so very proud of all of you and congratulations.  
Mahalo (Thank you).