December 18, 2003

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senate
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Senator Akaka:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an organization of 62 leading public and private research universities, I write to thank you for your leadership on S. 589, the Homeland Security Federal Workforce Act.

Today, homeland and national security rely upon a federal workforce that is highly knowledgeable and skilled in the areas of science, mathematics, engineering, and foreign languages. S. 589 would enhance the federal government's ability to recruit and retain such talented individuals to serve in national security related positions by establishing a National Security Fellowship Program for graduate students to enter federal service and by creating a pilot program for student loan repayment for federal employees in national security positions.

For over 60 years, the nation's research universities have worked in partnership with the federal government to educate and train scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and foreign language and area experts to serve our nation. This legislation renews and builds upon this vital partnership.

We support the thrust of S. 589 and look forward to working with you on this legislation. Thank you again your leadership on this important set of issues.

Sincerely,

Nils Hasselmo
President