

**Testimony of Pamela K. Hamamoto  
Ambassador-designate to the United Nations and Other International  
Organizations in Geneva  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
September 24, 2013**

Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Paul, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva. It is an honor to be here and I am grateful to President Obama for his confidence in nominating me for this important position and for the opportunity to serve my country and to advance U.S. national interest in Geneva.

With me here today is my husband, David Kaull, my brother David Hamamoto and my sister-in-law, Marty Hamamoto, who I would also like to thank for their support.

I firmly believe that America is best represented at the UN and in the multilateral arena when we are at the table, sleeves rolled up and leading. If confirmed, I am absolutely determined to continue to strengthen the President's efforts in Geneva to advance our nation's objectives and be in the strongest possible position to support our friends.

I am deeply committed to redoubling our efforts in USUN Geneva which represents and advances critical U.S. interests at a wide range of technical and specialized agencies. These agencies focus attention on some of the world's most challenging issues, and in many cases, those which demand a truly multilateral approach. For example, at the World Health Organization (WHO) efforts continue to eradicate polio and prevent the spread of other deadly diseases. At the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) governments and the private sector come together in an effort to improve international telecommunications networks and services. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) assists with the coordination and mobilization of effective humanitarian action in

some of the most difficult and dangerous conflict zones. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) works around the globe to build and maintain an effective system for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, on which countless U.S. businesses and individuals depend. Taken as a whole, the breadth of work across so many different areas by the U.S. Mission and its diplomats is truly staggering.

Having grown up in Hawaii, the multinational “melting pot” of the Pacific, I’ve learned how to build relationships across cultures, and should I be confirmed, I look forward to building bridges with leaders from many different countries, and working together to make the world a better place.

I will bring to my new role the cumulative skills, interests, and experiences that I believe will serve me well as I lead this unique Mission. A strong interest in the energy sector and clean energy solutions led me to the engineering program at Stanford University and subsequent experience in the private sector working on hydroelectric power systems. I took from that period in my life valuable lessons not just about the complexity and potential of energy innovation, but also about the importance of international cooperation on energy and environmental issues – lessons that I expect to prove relevant in my interactions with organizations like the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

I will also bring to this important position an understanding of one of America’s most vibrant and internationally influential economic sectors – telecommunications. Having worked in telecomm development for a number of years, I am keenly attuned not just to the industry’s dramatic expansion and evolution over the last 25 years, but also to the need to employ relevant international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union to promote and protect an American vision of that sector as an engine for growth and innovation.

Most importantly, throughout my career I have seen firsthand the critical importance of effective management and the efficient use of resources. My time working in the banking and finance sector cemented in my mind the crucial nature of active oversight, accountability for resources, and responsible and transparent reporting. I know that all the Members of this Committee share the view that U.S. taxpayer dollars sent to UN agencies, whether in Geneva or elsewhere, must be

employed wisely, accounted for carefully, and must directly contribute to advancing U.S. goals and priorities at these various agencies.

If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to advance those priorities and to furthering our national interests at the UN agencies and international organizations in Geneva.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination, and I will be happy to answer your questions.