



TED STEVENS
FOUNDATION

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Mia Costello
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Costello,

On behalf of the Ted Stevens Foundation and the Stevens family, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill No. 17, which authorizes the Ted Stevens-Daniel K. Inouye Exchange Program for political science students.

The Ted Stevens Foundation was established to recognize and honor Senator Ted Stevens' career in public service, and to preserve his legacy through outreach and education. At its core, the Foundation seeks to empower current and future leaders to develop innovative solutions to difficult challenges.

Alaska and Hawaii share many common interests. The exchange program established by the bill will serve to encourage the next generation of leaders, and ensure a deeper cultural and political understanding between our two states. It is this understanding that has served both Alaska and Hawaii well through the joint efforts of Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye.

As Senators representing young, non-contiguous states, they understood the unique issues facing their constituents. Their bond was forged over their shared commitment to ensuring that the promises made during statehood and beyond were kept, despite the geographical distance from the lower 48. For them, their different political affiliations did not present an obstacle, but instead allowed Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye to work collaboratively with diverse groups to accomplish important legislative initiatives for their respective states and the nation.

The hallmark of Senator Stevens' career was his dedication to public service, and his firm belief in the limitless potential of his beloved state. Senator Inouye shared that dedication and a strong belief in the future of his home state. By providing the opportunity for students to study at both the University of Alaska and University of Hawaii, the Alaska Legislature is inspiring the next generation, and ensuring that the legacy of these great leaders endure.

Please let us know how we may be of service as the Legislature considers this legislation.

With warmest regards,



Karina Waller
Executive Director

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