

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION:
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4457 Office
(907) 465-3519 Fax
(800) 928-4457 Toll Free

INTERIM:
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 304
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office (907) 456-8172
Fax (907) 456-2490

Representative David Guttenberg

House Bill 93: School Gardens Sponsor Statement

House Bill 93 creates a grant program for non-profits who operate school gardens at public schools and have raised operation funding in their communities. It would allow the state to provide an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent of state aide to a school for the purposes of supporting a non-profit run school garden, farm or greenhouse.

This legislation makes recognition of Alaska's problems with obesity and food security. By teaching young Alaskans how to grow their own healthy food in their own communities we can begin to ease both problems.

The school gardens currently in operation are producing more than 2,000 pounds of fresh produce per year for students to take home, school snacks, purchase by members of the community, and donations to local food banks. There is also a pilot project in Fairbanks to use the vegetables from school gardens in school lunches.

House Bill 93 will provide low-cost fresh, nutritious vegetables for communities throughout Alaska with minimal impacts to the State Budget.