

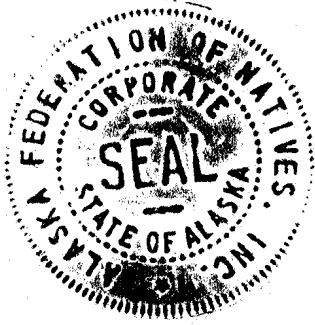


Alaska Federation of Natives
Legislative and Litigation Committee Resolution 14-3

- TITLE:** DESIGNATE ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally-recognized tribes, 134 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** In current state law, English is the only official language of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages have existed for millennia prior to statehood; and
- WHEREAS:** Adding Alaska Native languages as official languages of the State is an important step in recognizing the long-standing cultures of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages continue to be used by many speakers around the state who practice and teach their Native languages and cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native young adults and students throughout the State have demonstrated remarkable success in revitalizing Alaska Native languages that has contributed to improved self-identity and academic performance.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the passage of HB 216 ("An Act adding the Inupiaq, Siberian Yupik, Central Alaskan Yup'ik, Alutiiq, Unangax, Dena'ina, Deg Xinag, Holikachuk, Koyukon, Upper Kuskokwim, Gwich'in, Tanana, Upper Tanana, Tanacross, Hän, Ahtna, Eyak, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian languages as official languages of the state.") and efforts to include Alaska Native languages as official languages of Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Passed on February 25, 2014



Julie Kitka
President