



Sponsor Statement

CS for House Concurrent Resolution 1 (CRA) Collaboration and Partnership with Alaska Native Tribes

CSHCR1 (CRA) declares the Legislature's support for measures for more collaboration with Alaska Native tribes to address persistent, devastating social strife in rural communities.

In matters of law enforcement and the delivery of justice, the state has too often missed opportunities to better partner with Alaska Native communities. Meanwhile, rates of alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault that are among the highest in the U.S. have continued to shatter communities.

CSHCR1 (CRA) endorses strengthening the authority, responsibility, and capacity of local tribal governments to administer public safety and justice in their communities. Experts agree that greater control, better defined jurisdiction, and increased local accountability will lead to swifter response to violence and criminal activity, increased crime prevention, and increased rehabilitative, rather than punitive, sentencing models.

In time, more tribal authority and capacity for the delivery of justice will also help lessen the burden on state law enforcement, court system, and corrections system resources.