



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Senate

CS Senate Joint Resolution 7 Sponsor Statement

“Resolution to Maintain Denali as Official Name”

Millions of people from around the world visit Alaska each year to experience our unique culture and breathtaking environment, with Mount Denali standing as a symbol of that natural grandeur. Denali has long been viewed as a centerpiece of Alaska's landscape. In 1975, the State of Alaska formally requested that the mountain's name be changed to Denali when lawmakers petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Alaska's request was finally granted in 2015 when the name Denali was officially adopted.

The purpose of SJR 7 is to preserve Denali as the rightful name of this iconic peak. Denali, a Koyukon Athabascan word meaning "The High One," is the tallest mountain in North America. It is a name recognized not only by Alaskans but by people across the United States and around the world.

The overwhelming majority of Alaskans support maintaining Denali as the official name. The Athabascan people have lived in Alaska's Interior for thousands of years, and today, Alaskans from all walks of life—regardless of background or political affiliation—embrace Denali as the proper name for this remarkable peak. We understand that the many indigenous place names throughout Alaska reflect the rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and languages of Alaska Natives.

The consensus is clear: the majority of Alaskans believe Denali should remain the official name of this great American landmark. I urge you to support SJR 7 in honor of all Alaskans.