



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

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Sponsor Statement - SB282 - 34-LS1614\A

“An Act relating to the Joint Armed Services Committee; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill 282 was introduced to modernize the statutes setting the structure, function and focus of the Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC).

Created in 1999 in legislation sponsored by then-Representative Lisa Murkowski, the JASC was a response to the federal Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) of 1990.

The BRAC process was extremely complicated and emotionally charged, and it resulted in major alterations to the Alaska defense landscape, including changes at Adak, Elmendorf, Eielson, Kulis, Fort Greely and Galena.

While BRAC is still a lingering concern, changing the statutes to reflect a broader mission is in order if the JASC is to continue to be a proven and effective instrument of the Legislature.

This draft gives the Alaska Federation of natives and the Alaska Municipal League their own full representation on the committee rather than sharing a seat. Both entities have large constituencies and issues related to military activity in Alaska and warrant full representation.

SB 282 also tasks the Legislative Affairs Agency with basic civilian member roster management, as the JASC has no permanent staff assigned.

Finally, the bill sunsets the Joint Committee in 2036 for review and re-enactment.

I would appreciate your support.