



## Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Senate

District P Fairbanks

SB 185

### Sponsor Statement

“An Act establishing the Alaska Military Affairs Commission; and relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Military Affairs Commission.”

Senate Bill No. 185 establishes the Alaska Military Affairs Commission (AMAC). AMAC will effectively provide recommendations and counsel regarding social, economic and industrial development concerning the military to the Governor, agencies, the legislature, communities, and our congressional delegation. The AMAC will work on the expansion of military presence in our state, including, but not limited to, new bases, increased training, and expanded missions.

Various states across the country have established military affairs organizations focused on the growth and preservation of their defense sectors. The defense industry has long been a vital component of Alaska’s socioeconomic landscape. Despite its vitality, there are many gaps in the understanding of how the military impacts Alaska and a lack of opportunities for pursuing growth as defense priorities continue to evolve. Alaska’s representation amongst other states is necessary for the organization, planning, and implementation of defense strategies, infrastructure, workforce development, and improvement in quality of life.

The AMAC will be essential to the protection of Alaska’s military interests. The establishment of this commission proves its commitment to the flourishing of military personnel, their families and the community they reside in. The Alaska Military Affairs Commission will provide leadership and guidance to ensure our state remains a fervent supporter of the United States military and veteran community. We ask for your support of Senate Bill 185.