



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Senate

SB 110

Sponsor Statement

"An Act establishing the museum construction and major expansion matching grant program; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska has a rich culture and history that is worth being shared with both residents and visitors to our state. Museums are instrumental in sharing our history and preserving our culture. A fund already exists in statute under AS 14.56.355 that provides grant funding to libraries; if enacted, SB 110 would create a similar fund to aid museums around the state in their growth and revitalization.

Not only do museums play a vital role in educating the public about our history, they also act as a gathering places for the community and contribute to our economy. According to a 2023 survey conducted by the American Alliance of Museums, surveyed museums of Alaska had a financial impact of \$114 million on the economy and served over 22,000 K-12 students. According to the American Alliance of Museums, museums and other nonprofit cultural organizations return more an \$5 in tax revenues for every \$1 they receive in funding from all levels of government.

Many precious cultural artifacts are waiting to be displayed in buildings that need repairs and infrastructure updates. To adequately store and display current and future artifacts, museums need funding opportunities to do so. Alaska has over 100 museums and cultural centers located throughout the state. Recent surveys have shown that more than half of Alaska's museums and cultural centers anticipate undertaking major capital improvement projects in the next five years. I urge your support of SB 110 in order to help make such projects possible.

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