

Dear Ms. Gatti and Rep Ortiz,

I'd like to express my support for House Concurrent Resolution 19 that asks Governor Walker to declare a linguistic emergency in the state of Alaska.

As Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I represent the efforts of our faculty and students to document and conserve the world's endangered and threatened languages. As you know, many of the indigenous languages of Alaska are threatened, endangered or extinct, and this represents a loss to humanity that cannot be calculated. But the losses are significant and tangible, and I urge the passing of this bill. The languages of Alaska are unique and represent a history and culture that teaches Alaskans, and indeed everyone across the world, something about humanity. I thank you for this effort, and the opportunity to be heard. Sincerely,

Kamil Deen

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Kamil Deen
Professor and Chair
Department of Linguistics
University of Hawaii at Manoa