

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 23, 2001
3:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

OVERVIEW: STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: PRIVATE SECTOR

TAPES

01-22C, SIDES A & B
01-22D, SIDE A

CALL TO ORDER

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MURKOWSKI, Chair, called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

PRESENT

Members present included Representatives Murkowski, Meyer, Kott, Rokeberg, and Crawford.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

KITTY FARNUM, Chair, Alaska Process Industry Consortium (APIC), reported that APIC is part of the larger Business Learning Consortia. The consortium is one part of the workforce development plan in Alaska. Industry members come together to create a common voice to identify future job needs, and job standards to meet those needs. The consortium brings focus to the industries that are most critical to Alaska's future.

LARAINNE DERR, President, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA), spoke briefly on health care.

DICK CATTANACH, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors (AGC), reported that the construction industry is experiencing a shortage of workers. By 2008 Alaska will need 2,200 more construction workers: 850 new workers each year. AGC recognizes the need to recruit students who are high school age and younger. He outlined AGC's plan to attract students to the construction industry and acknowledged that construction workers need to improve their image.

BONNIE JO SAVLAND, Statewide Director, Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET), reported that ANCET is working to develop skills and train individuals to maximize employment in rural Alaska.

MIKE ANDREWS, Director, Alaska Works Partnership (AWP), asked the committee to turn their attention to a video on apprenticeship training programs. Mr. Andrews stated the objective of Alaska Works Partnership is to increase access to good jobs and careers in rural Alaska. Alaska Works Partnership seeks to increase the number of Alaska Natives and women in the construction industry. He highlighted the commitment from the construction industry, unions, and apprenticeship programs to achieve the goals of AWP.

KRISTEN FORRESTER, Career Pathways, stated that kindergarten through high school curriculums need to evolve to fit the changing workforce. Career Pathways is a system that seeks to create a sequence of courses to focus a student's learning experience on how things apply to the real world. There are six paths that encompass all imaginable jobs and let students learn in context. Students are taught employability skills like integrity and responsibility.

JOHN HACALA (ph), State Director, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, United States Department of Labor (USDOL), via teleconference, explained that he is working to promote and expand the national apprenticeship system, coordinate services with other state and federal training and employment programs, and develop policies that encourage business and industry to participate more actively in the workforce development system.

MR. HACALA spoke about the status of the apprenticeship program in Alaska, which has been active for over 50 years. He said registered apprenticeships have been the traditional method to establish skill standards and certifications for industry in most of the construction trades. He said he has been working to expand the apprenticeship programs and mentioned four initiatives in varying stages of development and implementation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no committee announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR MURKOWSKI adjourned the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 5:10 p.m.

NOTE: The meeting was recorded and handwritten log notes were taken. A copy of the tape(s) and log notes may be obtained by contacting the House Records Office at State Capitol, Room 3, Juneau, Alaska 99801 (mailing address), (907) 465-2214, and after adjournment of the second session of the Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.