

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

March 18, 2024

Sixty-third Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:02 a.m.

The roll showed nineteen members present. Senator Hoffman was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Major Gina Halverson, The Salvation Army. Senator Olson moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Lord, we thank you for this beautiful land we are able to work, maintain, enjoy and be a part of year after year. As each person here brings their experiences, knowledge and ideas, provide guidance to help all work together to maintain a spirit of comradery that will move our beautiful state into a future that will flourish and provide a cornerstone for Alaskans centuries to come.

From Alaskan snow to Alaskan rivers along the Alaska coastline with a fresh glacier breeze, I pray that all will be at the forefront of every decision made in this Assembly. Amen.

Senator Tobin led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the sixtieth through sixty-second legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Hoffman be excused from a call of the Senate floor session today. Without objection, Senator Hoffman was excused.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated March 15 was read stating:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the following appointee(s). A signature on this report does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual(s) during any further sessions.

Alaska Police Standards Council

Dusty Dumont

State Commission for Human Rights

Rebecca Carrillo

William Craig

Signing the report: Senator Claman, Chair; Senators Tobin, Kiehl, Kaufman.

Consideration of the Calendar**Third Reading of Senate Bills****SB 127**

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 127(FIN) "An Act relating to vehicle rental taxes; relating to the issuance of subpoenas related to tax records; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 127(FIN) "An Act relating to vehicle rental taxes; relating to the issuance of subpoenas related to tax records; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 127(FIN)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 15 NAYS: 4 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kaufman, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Nays: Hughes, Kawasaki, Shower, Stedman

Excused: Hoffman

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 127(FIN) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Senate Bills in Third Reading

SB 161

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) "An Act relating to municipal taxation of farm land and farm structures; and providing for an effective date" which had been held in third reading (page 1923) was before the Senate.

Senator Hughes moved the bill be returned to second reading for all amendments offered today. Without objection, the bill was returned to second reading.

Senator Hughes offered Amendment No. 1:

Page 2, following line 12:

Insert a new bill section to read:

*** Sec. 2.** AS 29.45.050(y) is amended to read:

(y) In this section,

(1) "farming activity" means raising and harvesting crops other than marijuana; feeding, breeding, and managing livestock; dairying; or any combination of those activities;

(2) "industrial hemp" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100;

(3) "marijuana" means the plant of the genus cannabis but does not include industrial hemp."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Senator Hughes moved for the adoption of Amendment No. 1.
Objections were heard.

The question being: "Shall Amendment No. 1 be adopted?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 161(CRA)

Second Reading

Amendment No. 1?

YEAS: 9 NAYS: 10 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Hughes, Kaufman, Merrick, Myers, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Wilson

Nays: Bishop, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Olson, Tobin, Wielechowski

Excused: Hoffman

and so, Amendment No. 1 failed.

Senator Kiehl offered Amendment No. 2:

Page 2, line 2, following "vegetables,":

Insert **"aquatic farm products as defined in AS 16.40.199,"**

Page 2, line 3, following "crops":

Insert **"specified by ordinance"**

Page 2, following line 12:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* **Sec. 2.** AS 29.45.050(y) is amended to read:

(y) In this section, "farming activity" means raising and harvesting crops; feeding, breeding, and managing livestock; dairying; **propagating, farming, or cultivating an aquatic farm product as defined in AS 16.40.199;** or any combination of those activities."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Senator Kiehl moved for the adoption of Amendment No. 2. Senator Shower objected, then withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment No. 2 was adopted.

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) am was automatically in third reading.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) am "An Act relating to municipal taxation of farm land and farm structures; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 161(CRA) am
Third Reading - Final Passage
Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 19 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Excused: Hoffman

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) am passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause(s). Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

Honoring - City of Wasilla 50th Anniversary
Senator(s) Wilson

Honoring - Wolfgang Emil Junge
Senator(s) Wilson
Representative(s) McCabe

Honoring - Dr. Karen Ward
Senator(s) Wilson

Honoring - Brandon Griff Harbour
Senator(s) Wilson

Honoring - Wasilla High School Warriors Girls Volleyball 2023 4A
State Champions
Senator(s) Wilson

Honoring - Robin Ann Minard
Senator(s) Wilson

Honoring - Spencer Woods
Representative(s) Baker

In Memoriam - Tim Stewart
Senator(s) Tobin, Olson
Representative(s) Foster

In Memoriam - Drew Spencer Rotermund
Representative(s) Tomaszewski
Senator(s) Myers

In Memoriam - Hans Clark Nicholson
Representative(s) Sumner

In Memoriam - Julia Dawn Maxwell
Representative(s) Sumner
Senator(s) Wilson

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

Senator Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, March 28 through evening plane time, April 1 and from morning plane time, April 18 through evening plane time, April 21. Without objection, Senator Myers was excused.

Senator Kawasaki moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on April 5. Without objection, Senator Kawasaki was excused.

Senator Gray-Jackson moved and asked unanimous consent to amend a prior excusal (page 1717) in order to be excused from a call of the Senate on April 4 and April 5. Without objection, Senator Gray-Jackson was excused.

HB 286

Senator Hughes moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cross sponsor on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 286(STA) "An Act relating to victim restitution and compensation." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 207

Senators Merrick, Myers moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 207 "An Act creating the military and veteran family help desk in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

HB 3

Senator Bjorkman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cross sponsor on CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 3(FIN) "An Act relating to specie as legal tender in the state; and relating to borough and city sales and use taxes on specie." Without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 175

Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE BILL NO. 175 "An Act relating to an electronic product stewardship program; relating to collection, recycling, and disposal of electronic equipment; establishing the electronics recycling advisory council; and providing for an effective date." Without objection, it was so ordered.

Recess

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess to the Joint Session. Without objection, the Senate recessed at 11:52 a.m.

After Recess**Joint Session in the House**

Speaker Tilton called the House to order and in accordance with Uniform Rule 51 turned the gavel over to President Stevens, who called the Joint Session to order at 2:18 p.m.

SB 140

The purpose of the Joint Session was to consider override of the Governor's veto of CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H (EDU: Internet/Charter/Transp./Funding/BSA).

The roll call of the Senate showed twenty members present.

The roll of the House showed thirty-nine members present.

Senator Giessel moved CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H become law notwithstanding the Governor's veto.

Senator Wielechowski rose to a point of order. President Stevens ruled the point well taken.

Representative Eastman moved and asked unanimous consent the Secretary read the Governor's veto letter that accompanied the bill.

Representative Eastman moved and asked unanimous consent to withdraw his motion. Without objection, it was so ordered.

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1947

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 140(FIN) am H "An Act relating to funding for Internet services for school districts; relating to charter schools; relating to transportation of public school students; relating to correspondence study funding; relating to the base student allocation; relating to funding for reading improvement plans; and providing for an effective date" become law notwithstanding the Governor's veto?" The roll of the Senate was taken with the following result:

SENATE

CSSB 140(FIN) am H

Veto Override

YEAS: 16 NAYS: 4 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski

Nays: Hughes, Myers, Shower, Wilson

The roll of the House was taken with the following result:

HOUSE

CSSB 140(FIN) am H

Veto Override

YEAS: 23 NAYS: 16 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Armstrong, Carrick, Dibert, Edgmon, Fields, Foster, Galvin, Gray, Groh, Hannan, Himschoot, Josephson, McCormick, Mears, Mina, Ortiz, Ruffridge, Schrage, Stapp, Story, Stutes, Sumner, Wright

Nays: Allard, Baker, Carpenter, Coulombe, Cronk, Eastman, C.Johnson, D.Johnson, McCabe, McKay, Prax, Saddler, Shaw, Tilton, Tomaszewski, Vance

Excused: Rauscher

TOTALS: YEAS: 39 NAYS: 20 EXCUSED: 1 ABSENT: 0

and so, lacking the necessary 40 votes to override, the Governor's veto was sustained.

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1948

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Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Joint Session stand in adjournment. Without objection, the Joint Session adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

After Recess

In the Senate

The Senate reconvened at 4:04 p.m.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment

SB 127

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 127(FIN) "An Act relating to vehicle rental taxes; relating to the issuance of subpoenas related to tax records; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 161

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) am "An Act relating to municipal taxation of farm land and farm structures; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., March 20, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 19	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HB 279	LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Mar 21	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

EDUCATION

Mar 18	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+ SB 178	SCHOOL TERMS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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1950

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EDUCATION (continued)

Mar 20 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

+
 Consideration of Governor's Appointees -
 University of Alaska Board of Regents:
 Seth Church - Fairbanks
 Stephen Colligan - Wasilla
 Board of Education and Early Development:
 Pamela Dupras - Anchorage
 Barbara Tyndall - Fairbanks
 Professional Teaching Practices Commission:
 Michael Robbins - Ketchikan
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 22 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

+
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE

Mar 18 Monday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+
 Presentation: Fiscal Update
 by Legislative Finance Division
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 19 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ HB 125 TRAPPING CABINS ON STATE LAND
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 207 MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILY HELP DESK
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 20 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ SB 84 MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 206 WORKERS' COMP. STAY-AT-WORK PROGRAM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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1951

FINANCE (continued)

Mar 21 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

- + SB 151 MISSING/MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE;REPORT
- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 22 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

- + Presentation: Forthcoming Labor Contracts and Monetary Terms by
 - Department of Administration
 - Department of Law
- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 19 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + SB 233 CHILD CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT
- += SB 241 MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
- + HB 344 MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
- <Pending Referral>
- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 21 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

- + HB 89 CHILD CARE: TAX CREDITS/ASSISTANCE/GRANTS
- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

JUDICIARY

Mar 18 Monday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM

- Delayed to 1:45 pm --
- += SB 17 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
- + SB 134 INS. DATA SECURITY; INFO. SECURITY PRGRMS
- <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 03/20/24>
- Invited & Public Testimony --
- Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
Richard Larson, State Board of Parole
- Invited & Public Testimony --
- + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

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1952

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Mar 20 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+= SB 60 REPEAL WORKERS' COMP APPEALS COMMISSION
+ HJR 3 CONCEALED HANDGUN RECIPROCITY B/W STATES
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
+= SB 134 INS. DATA SECURITY; INFO. SECURITY PRGRMS
<Bill Hearing Rescheduled from 03/18/24>
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Mar 22 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+= SB 165 DEFENSE OF PUB. OFFICER: ETHICS COMPLAINT
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 18 Monday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
-- MEETING CANCELED --
+ SB 203 BUSINESS LICENSE FEES
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 200 TRS CONTR RATE; PERS SOC SECURITY OR SBS
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 20 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
+= SB 196 EMPLOYER DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
+= SB 121 PHARMACIES/PHARMACISTS/BENEFITS MANAGERS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 22 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

Mar 18 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+ SB 168 COMPENSATION FOR WRONGFULLY SEIZED GAME

<Bill Hearing Canceled>

Presentation: Micro-reactor Pilot Program at

Eielson Air Force Base by

Ms. Nancy Balkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of

the Air Force for Environment, Safety and

Infrastructure

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 20 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+ SB 194 REDUCE ROYALTY ON COOK INLET OIL & GAS

-- Public Testimony --

+ HB 143 ADVANCED RECYCLING AND FACILITIES

-- Public Testimony --

+ SB 175 ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING

-- Public Testimony --

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 22 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 19 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM

+ SB 195 STATE AGENCY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

-- Public Testimony --

Presentation: Department of Administration

Online Checkbook Implementation

+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:

+ SJR 15 CONST. AM: VOTES NEEDED FOR VETO OVERRIDE

Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS (continued)

Mar 21	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 185	ESTABLISH AK MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION		
	-- Public Testimony --		
+ SB 223	ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL APPOINTMENT		
	-- Public Testimony --		
	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Lt. Governor Successor,		
	Major General Torrence Saxe		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 19	Tuesday	Barnes 124	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Location Change --		
	Meeting Jointly with the House Transportation Committee		
+	Presentation: Innovations in Autonomous and Uncrewed Systems		
	by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities		

Mar 21	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ HB 81	VEHICLES/BOATS: TRANSFER ON DEATH TITLE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 255	OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PLACES; TRESPASSING		
	-- Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Mar 19	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
+	Department of Administration Budget		
Apr 11	Thursday	Butrovich 205	5:30 PM
+	Budget Closeout		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)**CORRECTIONS**

Mar 21 +	Thursday Department of Corrections Budget	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
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Apr 11 +	Thursday Budget Closeout	Butrovich 205	5:45 PM
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JUDICIARY

Apr 11 +	Thursday Budget Closeout	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
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MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mar 19 +	Tuesday Overview: Alaska Military Youth Academy	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	11:00 AM
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TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 19 +	Tuesday -- Rescheduled from 03/14/24 -- FY25 AMHS Request	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
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OTHER MEETINGS**JOINT SESSION**

Mar 18 +	Monday Consideration of the Governor's Veto of SB 140 (EDU: Internet/Charter/Transp./Funding/BSA)	House Chamber	2:15 PM
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OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Mar 19 +	Tuesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Housing Alaskans - A Public Private Partnership (HAPPP) Addressing Alaska’s Housing Crisis Through Partnerships, Advocacy, Technical Support and Creative Funding Solutions Presented by Michele Brown and other HAPPP Representatives Sponsored by Senator Dunbar	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Mar 21 +	Thursday Lunch & Learn Presentation: The Alaska Just Transition Collective - Aligned Vision for a Just and Equitable Transition Away from an Extractive Economy Into a Resilient One Based in Care Presenters Include: Faith Tyson, Alaska Renewables Doug Tansy, Business Manager of IBEW Local 1547 Wayne Morgan, Aniak Traditional Council Sponsored by Senator Claman, Senator Dunbar, and Representative McCormick	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Mar 26 +	Tuesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Global Military Outlook: What's Going On Around the World and its Impact to Alaska Presented by the Joint Staff of the National Guard Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki and Representative Shaw	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM