

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 28, 2023

3:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Scott Kawasaki, Chair
Senator Matt Claman, Vice Chair
Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator Kelly Merrick

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 12

"An Act relating to confidentiality of information; relating to the duties of the Department of Administration; creating an address confidentiality program; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 12(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 22

"An Act establishing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday."

- MOVED SB 22 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 30

"An Act establishing the month of October as Filipino American History Month."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship; and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the 120th anniversary of the first Korean immigration to the United States.

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 12

SHORT TITLE: ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) KIEHL

01/18/23 (S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/18/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/23 (S) STA, JUD, FIN
02/02/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/02/23 (S) Heard & Held
02/02/23 (S) MINUTE(STA)
02/28/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 22

SHORT TITLE: PROCLAIM JUNETEENTH DAY A HOLIDAY

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) GRAY-JACKSON

01/18/23 (S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/18/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/23 (S) STA
02/14/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/14/23 (S) Heard & Held
02/14/23 (S) MINUTE(STA)
02/28/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 30

SHORT TITLE: FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) GRAY-JACKSON

01/18/23 (S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/18/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/23 (S) STA
02/28/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SJR 6

SHORT TITLE: HONORING THE ALASKA-KOREA RELATIONSHIP

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) TOBIN

01/18/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/23 (S) STA
02/28/23 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, District B
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SB 12.

ELLA ADKINSON, Staff
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Reviewed the changes between version B and version S of SB 12 on behalf of the sponsor.

LAUREE MORTEN, Advocacy Initiatives Director
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Assault (ANDVSA)
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 12.

SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON, District G
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SB 22 and SB 30.

SENATOR LÖKI GALE TOBIN, District I
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SJR 6.

MICHAEL MASON, Staff
Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Provided the explanation of changes between version S and version U of SJR 6.

SEUNG MAN SANG, Consul and Head of the Consulate
Republic of Korea
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Provided invited testimony in support of SJR 6.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:31:02 PM](#)

CHAIR SCOTT KAWASAKI called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Bjorkman, Merrick, Wielechowski, and Chair Kawasaki. Senator Claman arrived during the course of the meeting

SB 12-ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

[3:32:44 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 12 "An Act relating to confidentiality of information; relating to the duties of the Department of Administration; creating an address confidentiality program; and providing for an effective date."

He asked for a motion to adopt the proposed committee substitute (CS) as the working document.

[3:33:11 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 12, work order 33-LS0162\S, as the working document.

CHAIR KAWASAKI objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:33:37 PM](#)

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, District B, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 12, stated that after the initial hearing, he and his staff worked with advocates and the chair's office to prepare the committee substitute that shortens and clarifies the bill. He deferred to Ms. Adkinson to go over the summary of changes.

[3:34:22 PM](#)

ELLA ADKINSON, Staff, Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, reviewed the changes between version B and version S of SB 12.

- ~ Sections 1-4 were deleted after the Court System conveyed that the residence address of peace and correctional officers are never acquired. These individuals also have the option of giving their work address as opposed to their personal address if they so choose.
- ~ Section 6(c)(3) was deleted as Title 13 protective orders are for purposes of financial protection and do not align with the program.

~ The definition of household member in Section 6 was amended to clarify that eligible household members live at the same residence as the individual enrolled in the program.

[3:35:12 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no questions and removed his objection; finding no further objection, version S was adopted.

[3:35:32 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened public testimony on SB 12 and recognized Alicia Petershoare.

[3:35:51 PM](#)

ALICIA PETERSHOARE, Acting Director, Shared Services of Alaska, Department of Administration, Juneau, Alaska, stated that she was available to answer questions.

[3:36:38 PM](#)

LAUREE MORTEN, Advocacy Initiatives Director, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Assault (ANDVSA), Juneau, Alaska, stated that ANDVSA is the membership organization of the domestic violence and sexual assault victim service programs statewide. She expressed appreciation to the sponsor and the committee for hearing the bill and moving it through the process. She emphasized the importance of being able to keep an address absolutely confidential in those few situations where it will be lifesaving. This program would provide that opportunity. She expressed hope that legislators also consider allowing victims to enter the program.

[3:38:25 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI closed public testimony on SB 12.

[3:38:45 PM](#)

At ease

[3:39:16 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and solicited a motion.

[3:39:21 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report the CS for SB 12, work order 33-LS0162\S, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:39:35 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and CSSB 12(STA) was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:39:53 PM](#)

At ease

SB 22-PROCLAIM JUNETEENTH DAY A HOLIDAY

[3:41:26 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 22 "An Act establishing Juneteenth Day as a legal holiday."

[3:41:50 PM](#)

SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON, District G, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 22, stated that just one week ago the Anchorage Assembly approved June 19 as a paid municipal holiday. Other communities throughout the state are following suit and IBEW Local 1547 employees enjoy June 19 as a paid holiday. She said this is about more than having a paid holiday; it's about the significance of January 19, 1865. She said she looks forward to the passage of SB 22.

[3:43:09 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK asked for an explanation of the revised fiscal note.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON deferred to the Office of Management and Budget that drafted the fiscal note.

SENATOR MERRICK said she'd get an explanation when she hears the bill in a subsequent committee of referral.

[3:43:54 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened public testimony on SB 22; finding none, he closed public testimony.

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited the will of the committee.

[3:44:15 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to report SB 22, work order 33-LS0229\A, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:44:33 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI found no objection and SB 22 was reported from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:44:46 PM](#)

At ease

SB 30-FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

[3:46:04 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 30 "An Act establishing the month of October as Filipino American History Month."

[3:46:37 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON, District G, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 30, stated that when she served on the Anchorage Assembly she always recognized the culturally diverse community in Anchorage. When she was elected to the Senate, she decided to try to put this recognition into state statute. Thus far she's gotten Alaska Black History Month and Alaska Native Heritage Month codified. She turned to the introduction of SB 30 and read the following sponsor statement:

SB 30 celebrates the contributions of Filipino-Americans in Alaska by recognizing October as Filipino-American History Month in state statute. Since 1788, Filipinos have had a presence on lands now known as Alaska. From seasonal migrant cannery workers to health care workers and political leaders, Filipino-Americans are part of the fabric of Alaska's diverse history. As the largest Asian-American/Pacific Islander group and immigrant community in the state, Filipino-Americans have contributed to Alaska's communities, economy, government, and culture. With this legislation, we hope to join in solidarity to honor and appreciate the impact of Filipino-Americans to the State of Alaska.

[3:48:27 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened public testimony on SB 30; finding none, he closed public testimony.

[3:48:55 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI held SB 30 in committee.

[3:49:04 PM](#)

At ease

SJR 6-HONORING THE ALASKA-KOREA RELATIONSHIP

[3:50:14 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 Honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship; and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the 120th anniversary of the first Korean immigration to the United States.

[3:50:38 PM](#)

SENATOR LÖKI GALE TOBIN, District I, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SJR 6, stated that during the 32nd legislature, her predecessor and former Representative Tarr worked on a bill to rename a bridge in the Mountain View neighborhood of Anchorage after a Korean American constituent. The idea of honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship developed from that work.

CHAIR KAWASAKI solicited a motion to adopt the draft committee substitute for SJR 6.

[3:51:44 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SJR 6, work order 33-LS0284\U, as the working document.

CHAIR KAWASAKI objected for purposes of discussion.

[3:52:08 PM](#)

MICHAEL MASON, Staff, Senator Löki Gale Tobin, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, explained that the CS corrects the tourism numbers on page 2, lines 14-15. The correct tourism numbers are 2 million and 1 million respectively.

MR. MASON also added clarity to the last WHEREAS on page 2. The first Korea-Alaska Friendship Day was declared on June 20 2008 by then Governor Palin. Because the day is a yearly proclamation, not a set holiday, the date moves to reflect the days of the week, and last year that was June 25. The sponsor decided to honor the date of the first Korea-Alaska Friendship resolution.

[3:53:10 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI removed his objection; finding no further objection, version U was adopted.

[3:53:26 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN read the sponsor statement for SJR 6:

In 1954, the Korean Armistice Agreement to end hostilities on the Korean Peninsula was signed by the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. Since that time the two countries have developed strong economic and cultural relationships. Senate Joint Resolution 6 recognizes the ongoing "Global Comprehensive Strategic Alliance" between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, which has greatly benefited Alaska through billions of dollars' worth of trade and tourism.

Currently, the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is a growing hub for air cargo to and from the Republic of Korea, and every year thousands of Korean tourists visit Alaska. Anchorage and Incheon, South Korea have been sister cities since 1986, and thousands of Korean American call Alaska home. Alaska is incredibly fortunate to have a close relationship with the Republic of Korea. 2023 is the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement and the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

2023 is also the 120th anniversary of the first immigration of Koreans to the United States.

In the 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the United States, the two countries have developed strong and lasting ties that should be celebrated. In a time of rising tensions and global strife, it is important to acknowledge the friends and allies of the United States and Alaska.

Senate Joint Resolution 6 seeks to honor and celebrate the friendly and beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and the unique role Alaska has in that relationship.

CHAIR KAWASAKI turned to invited testimony.

3:56:04 PM

SEUNG MAN SANG, Consul and Head of the Consulate, Republic of Korea, Anchorage, Alaska, provided invited testimony in support of SJR 6. He spoke from the following prepared testimony:

Dear Honorable Alaska Legislature Members,

I write to you in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 6: Honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship; and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the 120th anniversary of the first Korean immigration to the United States.

The United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy one of the closest relationships in the world. We are friends, allies, and partners. Our longstanding relations began 141 years ago with the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation in 1882, when Korea was a dynasty called Joseon. About 70 years later, the ROK and the US became allies with the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty in October 1953. The ROK-US alliance was founded on the spirit of comrades-in-arms forged in blood during the Korean War. We fought together for freedom and democracy in the Korean War, which broke out with North Korea's invasion in June 1950, and ended three years later with the Ceasefire Agreement in July 1953. Approximately 1.8 million US troops were engaged in the Korean War, with over 36,000 of them dying during the conflict, while 2,500 or more Alaska troops served in the war, with 10 of them falling. Today, about 28,500 US troops are stationed in Korea.

The ROK-US alliance has become, not only the foundation of Korea's defense and security, but also the cornerstone of its rapid economic growth and stable democracy. We, the ROK and the US, have successfully stood the test of time for the past seven decades. We have overcome numerous threats and provocations, including nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, from the North, and have successfully

maintained peace on the Korean Peninsula based on our ironclad alliance cooperation.

Economic relations between our two countries have been upgraded by the ROK-US Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force in March 2012 and celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. The bilateral FTA has served as a vehicle to promote ROK-US economic ties. Bilateral trade for the past decade has expanded 67.8 percent to about \$169,100,000,000 in 2021 from \$101,800,000,000 in 2012. The mutual investment between the ROK and the US more than doubled during the same period. In particular, Korea's investment in the US has increased significantly, mainly in the semiconductor, battery, and automobile sectors. That has brought about the employment effect of 90,000 jobs in the US and strengthened bilateral supply chain cooperation. In 2019, about 2,300,000 Korean tourists visited the United States, and more than 1,000,000 American tourists visited the Republic of Korea, contributing considerably to the economies of each country. Covid-19 resulted in a sharp diminution in mutual visits in 2020 and 2021, but a rapid recovery is underway since the pandemic curve began to flatten last year.

Of course, the relationship of the ROK and the great state of Alaska has made great progress in the economy, people-to-people exchanges, military cooperation, and local government exchanges in lockstep with the development of ROK-US relations. Since 2018, the Republic of Korea has been Alaska's largest trading partner, with a volume of \$2,300,000,000 in 2021. The major trade items between Korea and Alaska are minerals & ores, fish & other marine products, petroleum & coal products, and computer & electronic products.

Some Korean companies have been contributing to Alaska's economy and employment. Korean Air and Asiana Airlines have been operating as major air cargo carriers at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, which is the world's 4th busiest airport for cargo throughput. Since the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the importance of air cargo has

increased, and the role of Korean air cargo carriers has also been growing.

4:01:00 PM

Each year, the ROK Air Force participates in Exercise Red Flag-Alaska, a joint aerial combat training exercise held by the US Air Force. Last year, two Korean Navy ships arrived in Anchorage for the first time in history as part of the ROK Navy Cruise Training. Alaska's strategic location and ROK-US common interests on the Korean Peninsula and in the region will make our bilateral military cooperation more expanded and stronger in the future.

Local governments in both countries acknowledge the strong ties between the ROK and Alaska and promote cultural and economic exchanges through establishing a sisterhood relationship: Incheon, a Korean metropolitan city, and Anchorage, Alaska's most populous city, signed in 1986. Assemblies between Incheon and Anchorage have also had a sisterhood relationship since 1993.

7,000 Koreans and Korean Americans live in Alaska, enriching Alaska's history and culture. They also serve at various corners of Alaska as military personnel, police officers, fire fighters, nurses and doctors, teachers, business owners, public servants, etc., contributing their talents to Alaska's safety, diversity, and unity. A shining example was Ms. Emma Broyles, a Korean American, who became Alaska's first Miss America last year and made Alaska's name widely known. Since 2008, the state of Alaska has celebrated Korea-Alaska Friendship Day on June 20. The Anchorage Korean community, in collaboration with the Korean Consulate in Anchorage, holds the Korea-Alaska Friendship Festival each year, acknowledging the longstanding ties, economic and cultural exchanges, and friendship between the Republic of Korea and the state of Alaska.

The ROK and the US have been developing a steadfast partnership, anchored in shared values and interests, as friends, allies, and partners. As agreed at the ROK-US summit in May 2022, our two countries are collaborating to achieve our shared goal of

transforming the bilateral alliance into a global comprehensive strategic alliance, capable of addressing the most pressing regional and global challenges. Korean Americans, since their first immigration to the US 120 years ago, have become an integral part of America and also of Alaska, enriching the lives of both US and Alaska.

All things considered, I have the honor hereby to urge you to support this resolution honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship.

[4:02:57 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI thanked Consul Sang for his testimony.

[4:03:24 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked the sponsor if she had anything to add.

[4:03:34 PM](#)

SENATOR TÖBIN thanked the committee for considering the resolution and urged swift passage.

SENATOR CLAMAN joined the committee.

[4:03:52 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI held SJR 6 in committee.

[4:04:42 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Kawasaki adjourned the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 4:04 p.m.