

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 8, 2024

3:32 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

EXECUTIVE ORDER 128

Separate Membership of the Board Of Directors of the Alaska Energy Authority and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

- HEARD

SENATE BILL NO. 131

"An Act requiring education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

- HEARD AND HELD

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 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."

- HEARD AND HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 131

SHORT TITLE: ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM

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

04/21/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/21/23	(S)	STA

02/08/24 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: HB 3

SHORT TITLE: GOLD AND SILVER SPECIE AS LEGAL TENDER

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) MCCABE

01/19/23 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/19/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/19/23 (H) CRA, STA, FIN
01/25/23 (H) CRA REFERRAL REMOVED
01/25/23 (H) BILL REPRINTED
02/02/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/02/23 (H) Heard & Held
02/02/23 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/16/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/16/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/21/23 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/21/23 (H) Moved HB 3 Out of Committee
02/21/23 (H) MINUTE(STA)
02/22/23 (H) STA RPT 4DP 2NR
02/22/23 (H) DP: ALLARD, C.JOHNSON, CARPENTER, SHAW
02/22/23 (H) NR: ARMSTRONG, STORY
04/17/23 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519
04/17/23 (H) Heard & Held
04/17/23 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
05/02/23 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519
05/02/23 (H) Heard & Held
05/02/23 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
05/05/23 (H) FIN AT 9:30 AM ADAMS 519
05/05/23 (H) Moved CSHB 3(FIN) Out of Committee
05/05/23 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
05/08/23 (H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) 6DP 1NR 2AM
05/08/23 (H) DP: CRONK, ORTIZ, STAPP, EDGMON,
D.JOHNSON, FOSTER
05/08/23 (H) NR: JOSEPHSON
05/08/23 (H) AM: GALVIN, HANNAN
05/11/23 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
05/11/23 (H) VERSION: CSHB 3(FIN)
05/12/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/12/23 (S) STA, FIN
02/08/24 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON, District G
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SB 131.

LUMA DIAZ, Staff
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented the sectional analysis for SB 131.

ULUAO AUMAVAE, Chief Equity Officer
Office of Equity and Justice
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

JEFF CHEN, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

JOONSUK PARK, Consul General
Consulate of the Republic of Korea
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

KIYANA FONUA, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

MAVIS BOONE, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

TAFILISAOA TOLEAFEOA, Executive Director
Pacific Community of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

LORI PICKETT, Executive Director
Alaska Literacy Program
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

LUSIANA HANSEN, CEO
Polynesian Association of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 131.

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MCCABE, District 30
Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor for HB 3.

JULIE MORRIS, Staff
Representative Kevin McCabe
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented the sectional analysis for HB 3.

JP CORTEZ, Policy Director
Sound Money Defense League
Charlotte, North Carolina

POSITION STATEMENT: Invited testimony for HB 3.

MIKE CARTER, Innovate Finance
Dallas Fort Worth, Texas

POSITION STATEMENT: Invited testimony for HB 3.

KARL KAUFMAN, Alaska Municipal League
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 3.

MELANIE GLATT, representing self
Big Lake, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 3.

ROLAN RUOSS, representing self
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 3.

ED MARTIN, representing self
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 3.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:32:25 PM](#)

CHAIR SCOTT KAWASAKI called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Merrick, Wielechowski, Claman, Bjorkman and Chair Kawasaki.

**EO 128 SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY AND THE ALASKA INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND EXPORT AUTHORITY**

[3:33:36 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI announced the consideration of EO 128 Separate Membership of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Energy Authority and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

[3:33:57 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened public testimony on EO 128; finding none, he closed public testimony and held EO 128 in committee.

SB 131-ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM

[3:34:20 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 131 "An Act requiring education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

[3:34:39 PM](#)

SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON, District G, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, as sponsor for SB 131, she provided the sponsor statement:

[Original punctuation provided.]

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 131
Asian American/ Pacific Islanders Program

Senate Bill 131 requires schools in the State of Alaska to educate students on the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

This curriculum will be established and provided by each school district for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are aplenty and need to be taught in schools. In addition to teaching about the contributions of the two communities, schools will also educate students on the cultural and economic diversity of the communities. May is Asian Pacific American History Month and was established as a way to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese individuals to the US in 1843. There are numerous sister cities between Japan and Alaska. Closest one to Juneau is Nemuro, Japan. It is an ocean facing fishing port. As early as 1788 there were Filipino seamen contacting Alaskan Natives. As Alaska developed our

natural resource industries, there was a steady stream of Filipino immigrant workers. May is also the anniversary of the Transcontinental railroad completion where most of the workers were Chinese Immigrants.

Although we are recognizing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as a group, they are very different and have their individual traditions, culture, and ways of life. It is important to teach our youth the differences within these cultures and their significance to our country.

[3:37:51 PM](#)

LUMA DIAZ, Staff, Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the sectional analysis for SB 131:

[Original punctuation provided.]

Sectional Analysis for SB 131

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Programs

Section 1: AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to article 10 which will require schools to teach students about the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Each school will establish a program that is specific to the history, contributions, culture and economic diversity of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

[3:38:46 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked if there is a test requirement or a way to ensure students are studying this type of education.

[3:39:01 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON replied that the requirement is not currently included in SB 131.

[3:39:08 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK expressed concerns about other types of curriculum getting bumped and stated that there is already a packed curriculum.

[3:39:30 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON replied that it is her understanding SB 131 would not remove curriculum.

[3:39:41 PM](#)

SENATOR MERRICK asked if it would be a part of the history curriculum.

[3:39:42 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON replied yes.

[3:40:10 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened invited and public testimony.

[3:40:20 PM](#)

At ease.

[3:42:26 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting and heard invited testimony.

[3:43:14 PM](#)

JEFF CHEN, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. He said he grew up as a third culture kid (TCK), which means he was raised in a culture other than what his parents experienced. He said he does not recall being taught Asian American curriculum in school until college. During childhood, behaviors and stories are learned from families, but people learn about each other from teachers at school, which is where similarities and differences are negotiated and where friends are met. It is also a place where assumptions about others, bullying, and racism have a ripple effect. As a child of immigrants, he wanted to fit in and didn't care about his own roots, which is a common experience for minority students across the country. However, he now feels pride for his Asian American background. Learning about each other and oneself is important for identity development, builds respect, and fosters an understanding about different races and ethnicities. He said as an adult, he worked with youth in schools across Alaska, brought students to the legislature, and has helped youth think critically and lovingly about who they are and where they come from and those experiences have proved to him that they make a positive impact on youth. As a journalist and producer, he has helped to share the stories of Asian Alaskans, such as Representative Thelma Buchholdt, Asian and Pacific Island cannery workers who helped build Alaska's world-class fisheries. These stories matter and deserve to be taught in history. Although a reflection of historical pain, it is important to include legislation like the Chinese Exclusion Act. In 2022, he received a Rasmussen Foundation award to create a photo exhibit

that explores the stories of Taiwanese Alaskans. He offered to contribute his work to the curriculum should SB 131 pass. When people intentionally learn about each other, they grow as a community.

[3:46:30 PM](#)

MR. CHEN added that Juneau was a sister city to Chia Yi, where his family is from.

[3:47:38 PM](#)

ULUAO AUMAVAE, Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Justice, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. He said it is important that the AAPI program is included because of its historical importance in the U.S. It would also cover the commitment to inclusivity, which helped found the country. Alaska has a connection to its sister cities and this legislation would demonstrate the state's commitment to partnerships across the world. It would also diversify the portfolio for school districts so students can learn about individuals who live in Anchorage and across Alaska, as well as different cultural traditions.

[3:49:47 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked the Chief Equity Officer if that is an official position of the municipality.

[3:50:0 PM](#)

MR. AUMAVAE replied that it is an official position.

[3:50:36 PM](#)

JOONSUK PARK, Consul General, Consulate of the Republic of Korea, Anchorage, Alaska, invited testimony for SB 131. He said American history encompasses the story of immigrants from around the world seeking freedom and prosperity. The legacy of freedom, diversity, and inclusivity in the United States has blossomed into the spirit of democracy. Many nations oppose these precious democratic values. Since its independence in 1776, the United States has constantly advanced the political idea of pluralism. Although all forms of discrimination against minorities have been shaped through milestones such as the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and the Civil Rights Act of 1960, schools educate future generations about America's remarkable progress. However, AAPI have not been equally recognized in history. He spoke to the first wave of seven thousand Korean immigrants that came to Hawaii. More than two million Koreans reside in the U.S. AAPI have brought rich cultures and diversity to American society and consistently contribute to its development. The

percentage of AAPI before 1970 was less than one percent. Now, they represent eight percent of the population. He opined that the contribution of AAPI should be taught in Alaska through the passage of SB 131.

[3:58:00 PM](#)

KIYANA FONUA, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. She said she would like to see equal representation for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Asian Americans in school curriculum to educate students about the cultures of people who live within Anchorage, in the community, and across the state. She suggested emphasizing the importance of teaching Native Hawaiian history truthfully. The education of core values, histories, and traditions in history could inform the next generation.

[3:59:27 PM](#)

MAVIS BOONE, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. She said she is Samoan and serves as the Director of Programs for the Pacific Community of Alaska. According to the census, Alaska is home to 18,668 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, which increased from 2010 by 67.4 percent. SB 131 is an important first step to ensure the education system reflects all of people's histories, creates an inclusive and enriching learning environment to promote personal and academic growth. Acknowledgment and celebration go beyond representation and also involve fostering empathy among students and educators. She expressed her belief that it is time to embrace diversity in Alaska, so people understand each other and each individual culture and can work together in unity.

[4:01:22 PM](#)

TAFILISAUNOA TOLEAFOA, representing self, Executive Director, Pacific Community of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. She said she is originally from Samoa and speaks today on behalf of the Pacific Community of Alaska. School district data demonstrates that Tagalog, Mung, and Samoan are in the top five languages spoken in homes. Including this measure as requirement would help kids see themselves in history and know that their ancestors, who were often silenced, contributed to the history of the U.S. SB 131 would elevate an understanding of these communities. She said she would like people from these communities to participate in creating the curriculum to ensure the truth is spoken into power, and shine light on falsified history.

[4:04:40 PM](#)

LORI PICKETT, Executive Director, Alaska Literacy Program, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. She stated AAPI communities in Alaska make people stronger and healthier. There is great value in teaching children about the rich history and vital contributions they have made and continue to make.

[4:05:55 PM](#)

LUSIANA HANSEN, CEO, Polynesian Association of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 131. She stated her belief that SB 131 is long overdue and there is no reason AAPI should be excluded from the curriculum. Some other states already have similar legislation in place. According to data from 2020, there is a population of about 77,366 AAPI people. Thirty-nine thousand are registered voters. It is important to establish AAPI history and language of AAPI in curriculum. She collaborated with AAPI communities to bring awareness to this issue. The many contributions from these communities make the state a better place to live. Students learn from each other and could help combat harmful language toward different cultures. SB 131 could also bring an educational understanding of how different communities have been historically categorized.

[4:12:03 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI closed public and [invited] testimony and held SB 131 in committee.

HB 3-GOLD AND SILVER SPECIE AS LEGAL TENDER

[4:12:30 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI announced the consideration of 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."

[4:12:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MCCABE, District 30, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor for HB 3.

[4:17:23 PM](#)

JULIE MORRIS, Staff, Representative Kevin McCabe, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the sectional analysis for HB 3:

[Original punctuation provided.]

CSHB 3\Ver. S SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

"An Act relating to specie as legal tender in the state; and relating to borough and city sales and use taxes on specie."

Section 1 amends A.S. 29.45.650(a) to include a new subsection (l) outlined under Section 2 below.

Section 2 amends AS 29.45.650 to add a new subsection to protect "specie" from a borough sales or use tax on the sale or exchange of specie.

Section 3 amends AS 29.45.700(a) to include a new subsection (h) outlined under Section 4 below.

Section 4 amends AS 29.45.700 to add a new subsection to protect "specie" from a city sales or use tax on the sale or exchange of specie.

Section 5 amends AS 44.12 to add Article 5. Legal Tender which defines "legal tender" in the state to include gold and silver tender including "specie." This section also states that person is not required to accept gold or silver specie as tender and defines "specie" and "legal tender."

Section 5 is further amended by adding a new section to read: "The Legislative Budget & Audit committee shall study the possibility of establishing additional forms of legal tender for the payment of debts, including public charges, taxes, and other money owed to the state. If the committee determines that additional forms of tender are practical and beneficial, the committee shall prepare legislation establishing an additional form of legal tender for introduction."

Section 6. Section 4, ch. 100, SLA 2002, as repealed and reenacted by sec. 9, ch. 117, SLA 2003 and sec. 2, ch 30, SLA 2005 is repealed, reenacted, and amended to read as outlined in Section 1 above.

[4:19:16 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if goldbacks are considered a specie.

[4:19:31 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied yes.

[4:19:39 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI said goldbacks don't seem to be in line with the definition of specie since there is a reliance on the value of metal content.

[4:20:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied that the value of gold and its purity is stamped on goldbacks.

[4:20:46 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if goldbacks are issued by private companies.

[4:20:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied that goldbacks are issued by private investment companies with permission from the state that wishes to have a goldback.

[4:21:10 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked how specie tendered under private governments companies fit under the definition of legal tender under page 2, lines 12-19 of HB 3.

[4:21:35 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE stated his belief that they are developed and printed by a private company but are authorized by a state.

[4:22:03 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked whether foreign government as a legal definition when referring to legal tender.

[4:22:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied that he would obtain that information from the bill drafter.

[4:22:32 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN said HB 3 references sales tax and other taxes but does not include an inventory tax; he wondered how the law would apply to a business operator who holds gold for sale.

[4:23:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied it would not be inventoried unless it was a collectible.

[4:24:27 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN asked how an owner or a municipal tax assessor could make the distinction between collectible and non-collectible coins.

[4:24:43 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied in the same way it is currently done. He provided an example using two-dollar bills.

[4:25:26 PM](#)

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI cited page 2, line 17 through 19, and asked if there have been discussions about the development of a new cause of action.

[4:25:58 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied that he has not had that discussion with the bill drafter.

[4:26:44 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI opened invited and public testimony on HB 3.

[4:27:50 PM](#)

JP CORTEZ, Executive Director, Sound Money Defense League, Charlotte, North Carolina, invited testimony for HB 3. He said HB 3 would ensure gold and silver coins would remain tax-free at the local level and forty-three states have already eliminated this tax. Those states that remain have active legislation to end this tax. The trend is not to impose any tax on gold and silver, but to remonetize the specie; building in-state depositories, and empowering treasurers to create the infrastructure to accept gold and silver remittance. He explained why a sales tax on gold and silver would be inappropriate. He said the fiscal note admits that parsing data is challenging and referenced a sales tax exemption that was passed in Tennessee and its fiscal note if adjusted to Alaska's population would have minimal fiscal impact.

[4:31:21 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked how other states have adopted policies on gold and silver tender.

[4:31:54 PM](#)

MR. CORTEZ replied that origin of state-level projects began to take form in 2011, when Utah passed the first Legal Tender Act, which exempts gold and silver from tax liability and renders the currency as legal tender. States are realizing they do not have

to idly stand by while the federal reserve prints money. There is no compulsion to trade in metals.

[4:33:22 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked if the state treasury would be required to take gold as a legal tender and whether ConocoPhillips could potentially pay in gold.

[4:33:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied no and said it would take a state depository or additional bill language to compel the state to accept gold as a legal tender. He stated that Texas is considering taking action.

[4:34:16 PM](#)

MR. CORTEZ said that is the case in many states, especially those with a strong mining infrastructure. He suggested that companies could choose to pay severance taxes.

[4:34:56 PM](#)

SENATOR CLAMAN asked if the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC) has invested in gold.

[4:35:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE replied that he does not believe so, but mentioned that Senator Bishop may have introduced a bill many years ago that would have mandated it.

[4:36:51 PM](#)

MIKE CARTER, Innovate Finance, Dallas Fort Worth, Texas, invited testimony for HB 3. He commended Representative McCabe for introducing the legislation. He noted his discussions are being facilitated across America. What started as an idea among the solution action tank he participates in is now a movement. There are 23 states that are considering transactional gold and silver. The technology is available to move onto the next step. He said he could spend gold anywhere in the United States and almost anywhere in the world on anything that can be bought with cash. In less than 200 milliseconds, it is possible to transfer gold into dollars or euros and convert it into currency on a debit card and it is backed by constitutional-based gold and silver. Eventually, the technology would enable peer-to-peer gold payments. Until now, the wealthy have always had a pathway to do that. The impact of inflation is being felt by everyone. Working Americans often can't afford to own gold and silver because it is not easily transactable. If Alaska moves forward on this issue and removes some tax liabilities, it could be

transferred to a debit card. If there is an emergency, this method would ensure a stable form of money backed by the state and makes gold accessible to all people.

[4:44:39 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked why international banks buy gold at record rates.

[4:44:47 PM](#)

MR. CARTER replied that it is a result of 40 trillion dollars of record debt in the U.S. As a result, people are looking for stability. He said is a vault in Switzerland which has substantial pallets of gold, that are being bought by China. He opined that if foreign countries are buying gold, states should buy gold and be ready for when hard times happen. He stated his belief that transactional gold and specie tender in Alaska would strengthen the dollar. Increasing the number of currency options stabilizes the value of the dollar does not compete with the banking industry. Recognizing gold and silver as legal tender protects citizens and would provide Alaskans with an economic opportunity.

[4:48:03 PM](#)

KARL KAUFMAN, Alaska Municipal League, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in opposition to HB 3. He said he is a tax attorney and focuses on federal, state, and local tax. He stated his belief that HB 3 poses a risk that Alaskans would use gold and silver as a legal tender without understanding the federal tax consequences of failing to keep adequate transactional records. Many people and businesses in Alaska often make mistakes in their tax filings due to its complex nature and therefore risk - penalties for substantial underpayment. He discussed his understanding of Supreme Court rulings on currency.

CHAIR KAWASAKI returned to public testimony on HB 3.

[4:51:14 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI asked if he is speaking on behalf of the Alaska Municipal League.

[4:51:20 PM](#)

MR. KAUFMAN stated he is speaking on behalf of the Alaska Municipal League and from his personal experience representing Alaskan citizens and businesses.

[4:51:44 PM](#)

MELANIE GLATT, representing self, Big Lake, Alaska, testified in support of HB 3. She shared her background in geology and mineral exploration, and stated that her father taught her about currency. She said HB 3 is well written and addresses the decline in the value of the dollar.

[4:53:01 PM](#)

At ease.

[4:53:16 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI reconvened the meeting.

[4:53:23 PM](#)

MR. CARTER responded to comments from the Alaska Municipal League by emphasizing that transactional gold and silver is not subject to capital gains tax unless the IRS were to change the tax code because it is functional currency. He said the conversion of gold to dollars follows customer laws, financial and banking rules, becomes transactional, and suggested looking at the study.

[4:55:26 PM](#)

ROLAN RUOSS, representing self, Kodiak, Alaska, testified in support of HB 3. He reiterated that central banks and world governments clearly recognize the value of gold as a saving vehicle. In 2022 and 2023, central banks exercised the highest buying levels of gold in 75 years. People who have saved over time are looking forward to retirement and should not be penalized through taxation. Utah and Oklahoma established under state statute, "a person is not required to accept gold and silver specie as legal tender except as agreed upon by contract." He referenced the Alaska Municipal League's opposition letter that posed gold transactions as a "potential legal hazard for Alaskans." He provided a counterpoint using Arkansas law stating it would be a product amendment to HB 3.

[4:58:32 PM](#)

ED MARTIN, representing self, Kenai, Alaska, testified in support of HB 3. He said he has owned gold mines and has traded in gold. Property taxation is a government function to some degree, but the government shouldn't meddle in personal and private business. He expressed frustrations about the perspective brought forth by the Alaska Municipal League.

[5:00:54 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI closed public testimony on HB 3.

[5:01:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE made final comments on HB 3. He said HB 3 would allow Alaskans to store their wealth in gold and silver, but also spend wealth directly without having to worry about commodity taxes.

[5:01:53 PM](#)

CHAIR KAWASAKI held HB 3 in committee.

[5:02:45 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Kawasaki adjourned the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 5:02 p.m.