

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Monday

February 24, 2025

Thirty-fifth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 11:01 a.m.

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

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Guy Crockroft, Love, INC. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for this new day and for this body, the Alaska Senate. May you bless each Senator as they serve and grant them the ability to love each other, and treat each other respectfully, even when they have strong differences of opinion.

I'm reminded of your words in Proverbs chapter 15, verse 1, where it says, "A soft and gentle and thoughtful answer turns away wrath, but harsh and careless words stir up anger." Lord, please help each Senator to give soft and gentle and thoughtful answers and avoid harsh and painful and careless words. Let their conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that they may know how to answer each other.

Lord, in accordance with your unconditional love, may you help each Senator today as they work together for the betterment of this great State of Alaska that you have blessed us to be a part of.

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In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

Senator Yundt led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the thirty-first through thirty-fourth legislative days and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 4 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent that Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate today through February 28. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

Standing Committee Reports

HB 65

The Finance Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 65 "An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senators Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

The bill is on today's calendar.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills**SB 54**

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 54 BY SENATOR CLAMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design; extending the termination date of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; relating to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; establishing requirements for the practice of registered interior design; relating to the practice of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and registered interior design by partnerships; relating to the scope of the certification requirements for architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, and registered interior designers; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of landscape architectural and interior design services; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce and Finance Committees.

SB 108

SENATE BILL NO. 108 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to finfish farms and finfish farm products; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Resources and Finance Committees.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Environmental Conservation

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Fish and Game

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Governor's transmittal letter dated February 20:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am pleased to transmit a bill authorizing and regulating finfish farms and finfish farm products. Currently, Alaska law prohibits the farming of finfish, except for private nonprofit (PNP) salmon hatcheries. Authorizing finfish farming would introduce a new industry to Alaska, creating jobs, increasing food security for residents, and contributing to economic growth.

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to permit the cultivation and sale of certain finfish in natural or artificial inland, closed-system bodies of water.

With a finfish farm permit, a permittee may operate a finfish farm and acquire, hold, offer, transfer, or sell finfish stock and finfish farm products, subject to DFG regulations and DEC oversight. The bill defines finfish as any bony fish belonging to the *Osteichthyes* class, excluding pink, chum, sockeye, coho, chinook, and Atlantic salmon. All finfish in finfish farms must remain sterile, and no artificial propagation is authorized.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,
/s/
Mike Dunleavy
Governor

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SB 109

SENATE BILL NO. 109 BY SENATORS HOFFMAN, Stedman, Olson, Cronk, Kiehl, Merrick, Kaufman, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Alaska permanent fund; relating to income of the Alaska permanent fund; relating to the amount available for appropriation and appropriations from the earnings reserve account; relating to the permanent fund dividend; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of House Bills

HB 65

HOUSE BILL NO. 65 "An Act authorizing the Alaska Railroad Corporation to issue revenue bonds to finance the replacement of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's passenger dock and related terminal facility in Seward, Alaska; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

President Stevens stated HOUSE BILL NO. 65 will advance to third reading on the February 26 calendar.

Third Reading of Senate Bills

SB 60

SENATE BILL NO. 60 "An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 60 "An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

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SB 60

Third Reading - Final Passage

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

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

Excused: Olson

and so, SENATE BILL NO. 60 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 79

SENATE BILL NO. 79 "An Act relating to wage payments" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 79 "An Act relating to wage payments" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 79

Third Reading - Final Passage

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

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Hughes, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Shower, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

Excused: Olson

and so, SENATE BILL NO. 79 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

In Memoriam - Jacob Daniel Wasielewski
Senator(s) Wielechowski, Kaufman

In Memoriam - Tim Tilsworth
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Carrick

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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

SJR 6

Senator Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as a cosponsor on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 Supporting the admittance of Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state of the United States of America. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Claman moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on March 17. Without objection, Senator Claman was excused.

SJR 10

Senators Gray-Jackson, Kawasaki, Dunbar, Tobin moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 Encouraging the United States Congress to award Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War the Congressional Gold Medal. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment

SB 60

SENATE BILL NO. 60 "An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

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SB 79

SENATE BILL NO. 79 "An Act relating to wage payments" 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., February 26, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:31 a.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

Feb 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
No Meeting Scheduled

EDUCATION

Feb 24 **Monday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
+= SB 82 EDUCATION:SCHOOLS; GRANTS; FUNDING; DEBT
+= SB 41 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Public Testimony --
+= SB 22 FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS
 -- Public Testimony --
+= SB 23 CIVICS EDUCATION
 -- Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 26 **Wednesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
+ SB 93 EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Feb 28 **Friday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **3:30 PM**
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL tv

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FINANCE

Feb 24	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ = HB 65	RAILROAD CORP. FINANCING Overview: Governor's Amendments Office of Management and Budget Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 25	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Presentation: Department of Transportation Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 26	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+ = SB 56	For Juneau, Southeast, Prince William Sound, Kodiak Sign up by 10:15am APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 57	APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 58	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 59	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 26	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:00 PM
+ = SB 56	-- Please Note Time Change -- For Fairbanks, Interior, Copper River Valley, Offnets Sign up by 2:15pm APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 57	APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 58	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ = SB 59	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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FINANCE (continued)

Feb 27	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
		For Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Unalaska, Dillingham, Offnets Sign up by 10:15am	
+= SB 56	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 57	APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 58	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 59	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 27	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	1:00 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
	For Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, Kenai Peninsula Sign up by 2:15pm		
+= SB 56	APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 57	APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 58	APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
+= SB 59	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Feb 28	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Feb 25	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE	-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+= SB 83	TELEHEALTH REIMBURSEMENT RATES	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (continued)

Feb 27	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
+= SB 89	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	SENATE RESOLUTION: CRISIS CARE		
	<Pending Introduction & Referral>		
	SENATE RESOLUTION: MEDICAID FUNDING		
	<Pending Introduction & Referral>		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

JUDICIARY

Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska Court System Overview		
	Nancy Meade, General Counsel, Alaska Court		
	System		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 26	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 28	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	SB 100	THEFT: ORGANIZED; MED. RECORDS; MAIL	
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Feb 24	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 39	LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 24	TOBACCO/NICOTINE/E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Feb 26	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	-- Continued from 02/19/25 --		
+	Presentation: How Workers' Compensation Works Chuck Collins, Director of Division of Workers' Compensation		
+	SB 54 EXT ARCH, ENG, SURVEY BRD; REG INT DESIGN -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 28	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

RESOURCES

Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= SB 61	ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Presentation: Alaska Mining Update, Alaska Metal Mines and Alaska Miners Association Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Alaska Metal Mines Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director, Alaska Miners Association Greta Schuerch, Senior Advisor, Government and External Affairs, Teck Alaska Bronk Jorgensen, Placer Miner, Fortymile River Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Feb 26	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+= SB 47	CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Presentation: Launch Alaska Update Launch Alaska and Portfolio Companies Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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RESOURCES (continued)

Feb 28	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 97	BIG GAME PERMIT PROGRAM		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 105	STATE LAND FOR RECREATIONAL CABIN SITES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

STATE AFFAIRS

Feb 25	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+ SB 43	WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH		
	-- Public Testimony --		
+ SB 40	HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SJR 6	WASHINGTON D.C. STATEHOOD		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SJR 10	HMONG VETERANS; CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

Feb 27	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

TRANSPORTATION

Feb 25	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association 2025		
	Priorities		
	Jamie Benson, President/CEO		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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TRANSPORTATION (continued)

Feb 27	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Overview: Metropolitan Planning Organizations Aaron Jongenelen, Executive Director/MPO Coordinator, AMATS Jackson C. Fox, Executive Director, FAST Planning Kim Sollien, Executive Director, MVP **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Feb 25	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	2:00 PM
+	Department Overview		

FISH & GAME

Mar 06	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
+	Department of Fish and Game Budget **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Feb 27	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	2:30 PM
+	Department Overview Dan DeBartolo, Admin Service Director		

MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Feb 25	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+	Department Overview Craig Christenson, Deputy Commissioner Bob Ernissee, Admin Services Director		

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Feb 25 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:30 PM**
+ Department Overview
Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Feb 27 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ SJR 9 RECOGNIZING ALASKA/CANADA RELATIONSHIP
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Feb 26 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **5:30 PM**
+ I. Call to Order
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
a. January 29, 2025
IV. Executive Session
a. Preliminary Release of Department of Family
and Community Services, Office of Children's
Services (OCS) Implementation of Foster Care
Reform Laws, Part 3
b. Update on the Special Audit titled, "Oil and
Gas Production Tax Audit Process"
c. Consideration of Contract Award
d. Legal Update
V. Committee Business
a. FY24 Legislature Audit
VI. Adjourn

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OTHER MEETINGS

JOINT SESSION

Mar 18	Tuesday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+		Annual Address by Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator	
Mar 20	Thursday	House Chamber	11:00 AM
+		Annual Address by Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator	

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Feb 24	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Trucking Association Industry Overview Jamie Benson, President/CEO Sponsored by Senator Bjorkman and Representative Carrick		
Feb 25	Tuesday	Davis 106	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: Emerging Invasive Species Concerns and Solutions Dr. Emily Reed, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Alaska Invasive Species Partnership Sponsored Representative Himschoot Co-sponsored by Senator Dunbar		
Feb 26	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
	Lunch & Learn Presentation: 2025 Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure American Society of Civil Engineers - Alaska Section as part of the Alaska Professional Design Council annual Legislative Fly-In David Gamez, Tor Anderzen, Greg Kinney Sponsored by Senator Kaufman		

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MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Mar 05	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Safeguarding Alaska's Natural Resources from Foreign Malign Influence Tyler Vose, Founder & CEO, Denali Defense Solutions Dal Rae Beach, COO Sponsored by Senators Shower, Yundt and Representatives Vance, Allard			
Mar 19	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Travel and Tourism Alaska Travel Industry Association Sponsored by Senator Merrick			
Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska's Workforce Future Alaska Workforce Alliance Jose Owens, American Marine International Carol Wren, BBNC and AWA Executive Director Sponsored by Senator Merrick			
Apr 01	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska is an Aerospace State Dr. Bob McCoy, Director, UAF Geophysical Institute Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki			
Apr 09	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Commission of Postsecondary Education Sponsored by Senator Tobin			