

SENATE JOURNAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

March 28, 2025

Sixty-seventh Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:31 a.m.

The roll showed sixteen members present. Senators Merrick, Stedman, Tobin were excused from a call of the Senate. Senator Hughes was absent.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Nancy Campbell, White Fields Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Oh, Lord, of heaven and earth, I lift up my eyes to You and offer this prayer for the Senate. Be their guide today and let Your Presence abide here in this chamber.

"I pray, Lord, that You would be their keeper, the shade at their right hand. That the sun shall not strike them by day, nor the moon by night. That You would preserve them from all evil; and preserve their soul. That You would preserve their going out and their coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore." Psalms 121:5-8

I pray your blessing over them now as they reason together.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

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Senator Shower led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth legislative days, Senate Journal Supplement No. 3 and Senate and House Joint Journal Supplement No. 8 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Shower moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Hughes be excused from a call of the Senate today. Without objection, Senator Hughes was excused.

Messages from the House

Message dated March 26 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills

HB 36

HOUSE BILL NO. 36 BY REPRESENTATIVES GRAY, Fields, Burke, Jimmie, Foster, Tomaszewski, Story, Mina, Eischeid, Bynum, Galvin, Hannan, Josephson, Stutes, Ruffridge, Schrage, Costello, Mears, Saddler, entitled:

"An Act relating to the placement of foster children in psychiatric hospitals; relating to the care of children in state custody placed in residential facilities outside the state; and amending Rule 12.1(b), Alaska Child in Need of Aid Rules of Procedure."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Finance Committees.

Standing Committee Reports

Report dated March 26 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.

Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar

Donald Handeland

Board of Parole

Leitoni Tupou

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

SB 64

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 64 "An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voting; relating to voter preregistration for minors at least 16 years of age; relating to voter registration; relating to the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to synthetic media in electioneering communications; relating to campaign signs; relating to public official financial disclosures; relating to the crime of unlawful interference with voting in the first degree; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 64(STA) "An Act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to voting; relating to voter registration; relating to election administration; relating to the Alaska Public Offices Commission; relating to campaign contributions; relating to the crimes of unlawful interference with voting in the first degree, unlawful interference with an election, and election official

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misconduct; relating to synthetic media in electioneering communications; relating to campaign signs; relating to public official financial disclosures; relating to the Redistricting Board; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson. Signing no recommendation: Senators Yundt, Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Office of the Governor

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Administration

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 148

SENATE BILL NO. 148 BY SENATOR MYERS, entitled:

"An Act regulating autonomous vehicles; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Transportation and State Affairs Committees.

SB 149

SENATE BILL NO. 149 BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI, entitled:

"An Act relating to generation of electricity from renewable energy resources; relating to a renewable portfolio standard; relating to power cost equalization; and providing for an effective date."

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

SB 150

SENATE BILL NO. 150 BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR, entitled:

"An Act relating to a net metering program; relating to reduced rates in the form of credits for consumer-generators; establishing a net metering reimbursement fund; and providing for an effective date."

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

The following fiscal information was published today:

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

Fiscal Note No. 2, zero, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Governor's transmittal letter dated March 27:

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to create a statutory net metering program, provide credits for participating consumer-generators, and establish a net metering reimbursement fund.

This legislation incentivizes renewable energy systems by requiring certain electric utilities to provide invoice credits to participating customers who install renewable energy generation systems that provide excess energy to the local grid. The bill allows an electric utility to offer credits to these "consumer-generators" without the rate reduction constituting an unreasonable preference or advantage under the utility statutes.

Through AS 42.05.395, load-serving electric utilities must provide a monthly credit to customers with an eligible renewable energy generation system equal to the excess electricity they produce, multiplied by the rate they would otherwise pay. Participating consumers can accrue bill credits over an annual cycle ending each March 31, at which point any unused credits expire.

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Because these credits may reduce utility revenue, sections 2 and 3 establish a net metering reimbursement fund to allow utilities—subject to appropriation, Regulatory Commission of Alaska regulations, and an application process overseen by the Alaska Energy Authority—to recover lost revenue without raising rates.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SB 151

SENATE BILL NO. 151 BY SENATOR BJORKMAN, entitled:

"An Act relating to head lice in public schools."

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

Consideration of the Calendar

Citations

Honoring - Dr. Diane O'Brien

Senator(s) Myers

Representative(s) Tomaszewski, Carrick

Honoring - Bosco's 40th Anniversary

Senator(s) Dunbar, Tobin

Representative(s) Fields

Honoring - Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP)

30th Anniversary

Senator(s) Dunbar, Hoffman

Representative(s) Dibert

Honoring - 2025 Kuskokwim 300 Top Five Finishers

Senator(s) Hoffman

Representative(s) Edgmon, Jimmie

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Honoring - Theresa Quiner
Senator(s) Hoffman
Representative(s) Jimmie

Honoring - Dr. Katie Spellman
Representative(s) Dibert, Carrick

Honoring - Stacie Kraly
Representative(s) Hannan, Story
Senator(s) Kiehl

In Memoriam - K9 Lenox
Senator(s) Myers
Representative(s) Carrick, Stapp

In Memoriam - Daisy Mae Edwards
Representative(s) Dibert
Senator(s) Kawasaki

In Memoriam - Liane Ryan
Representative(s) Underwood, Moore

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

President Stevens made the following appointments:

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Senator Giessel replaces Senator Kiehl

Alaska Minerals Commission
Jeff DeFreest
Enric Fernandez

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent Senator Olson be excused from a call of the Senate from afternoon plane time, May 7 through evening plane time, May 8. Without objection, Senator Olson was excused.

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Senator Wielechowski moved and asked unanimous consent to be excused from a call of the Senate on March 31. Without objection, Senator Wielechowski was excused.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., March 31, 2025. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

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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

Apr 01	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ HJR 5	SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+ SB 129	PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION

Mar 28	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 31	Monday	Davis 106	8:00 AM
+	-- Please Note Time & Location Change --		
	Meeting jointly with the House Education		
	Committee		
	Presentation: The State of Education from the		
	Field		
	Dr. Lisa Parady, Executive Director, Alaska		
	Council of School Administrators		
	Lori Rucksdashel, Principal, Chinook Elementary		
	School		
	Rick Dormer, Principal, Ketchikan High School		

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EDUCATION (continued)

(Continued from Previous Page)

Clayton Holland, Superintendent, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Phil Hulett, School Finance Officer, Galena City School District
Jennifer Schmitz, Director, Alaska Educator Retention and Recruitment Center
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 02	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		Consideration of Governor's Appointees: University of Alaska Board of Regents Karen Perdue - Fairbanks Christine Resler - Anchorage -- Public Testimony --	
+	SB 110	MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANTS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Apr 04	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

FINANCE

Mar 28	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
		No Meeting Scheduled	
Mar 31	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+		Consideration of Governor's Appointees: State Assessment Review Board - Sam Laffey -- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+= SB 57		APPROP: CAPITAL/SUPPLEMENTAL/FUNDS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

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FINANCE (continued)

Apr 01 Tuesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ SB 86 MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 29 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 24 TOBACCO/NICOTINE/E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 02 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ Presentation: Alaska Department of Labor and
Workforce Development

+ HB 56 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
<Pending Referral>
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 03 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ Overview: State Debt Summary and Credit Review
Department of Revenue

= HB 56 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
<Pending Referral>
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 04 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM

+ SB 146 REAA FUND: MT. EDGEcumbe, TEACHER HOUSING
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 22 FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

+ SB 6 ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER PROGRAM
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

= HB 56 APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP
<Pending Referral>
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Apr 01	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- Agenda Change --		
+ SB 134	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER;3RD PARTY ADMIN		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH		
	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/03/25>		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SJR 15	OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Brent Taylor, State Medical Board		
	-- Public Testimony --		
	Samantha Smith, State Medical Board		
	-- Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Apr 03	Thursday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	-- Agenda Change --		
+ SB 134	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER;3RD PARTY ADMIN		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 122	HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK STANDARDS		
	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 04/01/25>		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Samantha Smith, State Medical Board		
+ SB 45	MEDICAID MENTAL HEALTH PARITY		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:		
+ SB 88	CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH		

JUDICIARY

Mar 28	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INF. SAFETY DEVICE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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JUDICIARY (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 90	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Dorene Lorenz, State Commission for Human Rights Jessie Ruffridge, State Commission for Human Rights Jedediah Cox, Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar -- Invited & Public Testimony -- MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 04	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 90	Consideration of Governor's Appointees: Joan Wilson, Chief Administrative Law Judge -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 28	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 31	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 137	EXTEND BOARDS: MIDWIVES, NURSING, PAROLE -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 21	AK WORK & SAVE PROGRM; RETIRE. SAVINGS BD -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 28	RETIREMENT SYSTEMS; DEFINED BENEFIT OPT. -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

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LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 132	OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 133	INSURANCE; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 4	HEALTH CARE PRICES AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Apr 04	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 11	FLOOD INSURANCE		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 81	PUBLIC EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

RESOURCES

Mar 28	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ SB 92	CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 128	CREATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 31	Monday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ HJR 11	RECOGNIZING ALASKA/CANADA RELATIONSHIP		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	Presentation: Fisheries Task Force Report		
+ SB 130	FISHERIES PROD DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
+ SB 135	REFUND OF FISH BUSINESS TAX TO MUNIS		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

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RESOURCES (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ =	SB 92	CORP. INCOME TAX; OIL & GAS ENTITIES -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv** Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	
Apr 04	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
+ =	SB 128	CREATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+ =	SB 112	OIL & GAS PRODUCTION TAX -- Invited & Public Testimony -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 01	Tuesday	Adams 519	3:30 PM
+ =		-- Please Note Location Change -- Presentation: What is AIDEA and how does it benefit Alaskans? Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	
Apr 03	Thursday	Adams 519	3:30 PM
+ =		-- Please Note Location Change -- Presentation: What is AMHTA and how does it benefit Alaskans? Mary Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**	

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TRANSPORTATION

Apr 01	Tuesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Presentation: AIDEA Update on Major Projects Randy Ruaro, Executive Director Jeff San Juan, Ambler Road Project Manager **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Apr 03	Thursday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+ SB 138	TAXATION: VEHICLE RENTALS, SUBPOENAS -- Testimony <Invitation Only> -- Presentation: Tribal Coordination Shannon McCarthy, DOT&PF Communications Director Sara Lucey, Transportation Planner **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Apr 15	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	2:00 PM
+	Overview: Department of Environmental Conservation Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out		

HEALTH

Apr 03	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	7:45 AM
+	Presentation: Division of Behavioral Health; Division of Senior and Disabilities Services		

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Apr 15	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	2:45 PM
+	Overview: Department of Labor and Workforce Development Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out		

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MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Apr 15 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:15 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Military and Veterans
Affairs Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out

NATURAL RESOURCES

Apr 15 **Tuesday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **2:30 PM**
+ Overview: Department of Natural Resources
Senate Finance Subcommittee Close Out

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Apr 02 **Wednesday** **Senate Finance 532** **7:45 AM**
+ FY26 DOT Operating Budget - AMHS

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Apr 03 **Thursday** **Beltz 105 (tsbldg)** **1:30 PM**
+ Presentation: Alaska and International Arctic
Politics
Mike Sfraga - Fmr. Ambassador-At-Large for
Arctic Affairs, United States Department of State
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

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JOINT COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mar 31	Monday	Senate Finance 532	5:15 PM
		-- Please Note Location Change --	
		-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --	
+	Agenda		
	I. Call to Order		
	II. Approval of the Agenda		
	III. Approval of Minutes		
	a. March 12, 2025, Minutes		
	IV. Sanctioning of Charitable Events		
	a. Legislative Skits—April 26, 2025		
	V. Executive Session		
	a. Security Update		
	b. RFQ 667 Alaska State Capitol Security		
	Screeners		
	VI. Committee Business		
	a. Capitol Visitor Screening Policy		
	b. Identification Badge Policy		
	VII. Adjourn		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

OTHER MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

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		

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OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS (continued)

Apr 02	Wednesday	Davis 106	12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn Presentation: BUILDING FOR THE NORTH: The History of Alaska Housing and Cold Climate Solutions Leah Winters, Public Policy Fellow, Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) Sponsored by Senator Kawasaki			
Apr 09			
Wednesday			
Butrovich 205			
12:00 PM			
Lunch & Learn Presentation: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Sponsored by Senator Tobin			