

**HB**

**71**

# Alaska House of Representatives

Richard Foster  
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During Session  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
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Majority Whip

## House Bill 71

**"An Act establishing Kawerak, Inc., as the housing authority for the area that includes the Seward Peninsula, unalakleet, and St. Lawrence Island."**

## Sponsors Statement

House Bill 71 makes a technical change in AS 18.55.996, changing the name of the association given authority to appoint the Board of Commissioners for the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority.

Kawerak Inc. is the legal successor to the Bering Straits Native Association which is granted this authority under AS 18.55.996(a)(2)

The request for this legislation came from Kawerak Inc. and a letter of non-objection was received from the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority. Both letters are available for review.

Line 7 contains the only language change in the Bill.



# KAWERAK, INC.



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TELLER  
UNALAKLEET  
WALES  
WHITE MOUNTAIN

December 23, 1998

Representative Richard Foster  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Amendment to AS 18.55.996 regarding Regional Native Housing  
Authorities

Dear Representative Foster:

Kawerak seeks your help in obtaining a housekeeping amendment to the state law governing Native Housing Authorities. As you may know, Kawerak in its guise as the "Bering Straits Native Association" appoints the Board of Commissioners of the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority. This is because AS 18.55.996 names the "Bering Straits Association" as the appointing authority.

We request an amendment to 18.55.996(a)(2) substituting "Kawerak, Inc." for "Bering Straits Association."

Although you probably know the history better than I, by way of background AS 18.55.996 was enacted in 1971. It established the regional housing authorities "in association with" the various regional Native non-profit associations which existed at the time. The Bering Straits Association was the pre-ANCSA Native rights organization for this region. It changed its name to the "Bering Straits Native Association" (BSNA) sometime in 1971.

When Kawerak was incorporated in 1973 it took over the finances and all assets of BSNA, but no action was taken to formally dissolve BSNA. Since then, Kawerak and BSNA have always had the same board of directors. For many years BSNA's only function has been to appoint the BSRHA commissioners. When this duty is required, the Kawerak board adjourns its

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December 23, 1998

meeting and reconvenes as BSNA. Because BSNA is not incorporated it is not clear it even exists in any meaningful sense other than as an alternative name for Kawerak's board. It's an anachronism kept alive solely because of AS 18.15.996. Kawerak has been the de facto successor in interest to BSNA for many years.

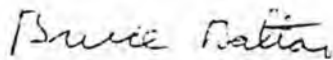
At its December meeting, the Kawerak Board of Directors decided to clean shop by abolishing certain organizational remnants which no longer serve a purpose. They wish to dissolve BSNA, and would prefer that AS 18.55.996 be amended to name Kawerak.

We view this as purely an in-region housekeeping matter which would not change anything substantive about the housing authority or its relationship to Kawerak. If there is some bigger picture concern with AS 18.55.996, please let us know. You or your staff may call Loretta Bullard or myself if you have any questions.

Thank you for your assistance, and good luck with the coming legislative session.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK, INC.



Bruce Baltar  
Attorney

cc Richard Foster at Nome address  
Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority



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Nome, Alaska 99762  
443-5256 or 5257  
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**BERING STRAITS REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY**

January 5, 1999

Representative Richard Foster  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Amendment to AS 18.55.996. Regarding Regional Housing Authorities

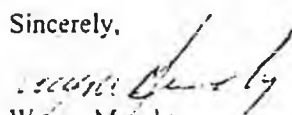
Dear Representative Foster:

You should have in your possession a letter dated December 23, 1998 from Kawerak, Inc. on the reference topic. The proposed amendment to AS 18.55.996 is to change the verbiage from the "Bering Straits Native Association" to "Kawerak, Inc." as they are the legal successor to the Bering Straits Native Association".

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority supports this technical change. Such a change will not adversely impact the Authority or the Region as a whole.

If you have any questions regarding our support of this request, please call me. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Wayne Mundy  
Executive Director

c: Bruce Baltar, Attorney, Kawerak, Inc.  
Loretta Bullard, CEO, Kawerak, Inc.  
Association of Alaska Housing Authorities.