

HB

254

<TARGET><BILL>HB 254</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
254</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 254(STA)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DICK AND MUÑOZ, Kerttula

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council**
2 **and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native**
3 **languages."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that the preservation of Alaska
8 Native languages is a critical component in the sustenance of cultural identity. The legislature
9 further finds that Alaska Native languages are the foundation of cultures and are vital in
10 maintaining traditional knowledge and understanding.

11 *** Sec. 2.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Article 7A. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.**

13 **Sec. 44.33.530. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory**
14 **Council.** (a) The Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is

1 established in the department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or
 2 reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization
 3 of Alaska Native languages.

4 (b) The council established under this section shall

5 (1) advise both the governor and legislature on programs, policies, and
 6 projects to provide for the cost-effective preservation, restoration, and revitalization of
 7 Alaska Native languages in the state;

8 (2) meet at least twice a year to carry out the purposes of the council;
 9 members may participate in meetings telephonically; and

10 (3) prepare reports of its findings and recommendations for the
 11 governor's and the legislature's consideration on or before January 1 of each even-
 12 numbered year.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section five
 14 voting members who represent diverse regions of the state, three of whom are
 15 professional Alaska Native language revitalization experts and two of whom are fluent
 16 in an Alaska Native language and engaged in revitalization efforts. In addition, one
 17 member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate and one member of the
 18 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives shall
 19 serve on the council as nonvoting members. In appointing the nonvoting members of
 20 the council, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives
 21 shall appoint a member of the bush caucus, if a bush caucus exists. In this subsection,
 22 "bush caucus" means a group of legislators that represents rural areas of the state.

23 (d) The members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the
 24 governor.

25 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
 26 to per diem and travel expenses as provided under AS 39.20.180.

27 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 28 read:

29 **REPORT; APPOINTMENTS.** (a) Notwithstanding AS 44.33.530(b)(3), the first
 30 report under AS 44.33.530(b)(3), added by sec. 2 of this Act, is due on or before July 1, 2014.

31 (b) The governor shall make the appointments required by AS 44.33.530(c), added by

1 sec. 2 of this Act, on or before December 1, 2012.

N

Sec. 44.64.200. Definitions.

In this chapter,

(1) "administrative hearing" means a quasi-judicial hearing before an agency; it does not include an informal conference or review held by an agency before a final decision is issued or a rate-making proceeding or other nonadjudicative public hearing;

(2) "administrative law judge" means a hearing officer who is retained or employed by the office;

(3) "agency" means an agency of the executive branch of state government, including an officer, a division, or another subunit of an agency, a board or commission, a public corporation, and the University of Alaska;

(4) "hearing officer" means an individual who presides over the conduct of an administrative hearing and who is retained or employed by an agency for that purpose;

(5) "office" means the office of administrative hearings established in AS 44.64.010.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HB 254

BY REPRESENTATIVE: *Keller*

1 Page 2, line 14:

2 Delete "who are professional language experts and"

3

4 Page 2, line 15, following "state":

5 Insert ", three of whom are professional Alaska Native language revitalization experts

6 and two of whom are fluent in an Alaska Native language and who are engaged in

7 revitalization efforts"

Alaska Native Language Revitalization

Prepared for the
Alaska State Legislature
HB 254 Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council

By

Rosita Kaahani Worl, Ph.D.
Sealaska Heritage Institute
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 16, 2012

In honor of my ancestors and in respect to this committee, I am privileged to tell you who I am:

Lingít x'eináx Yéideiklats'ok ka Kaahani ax saayi.

Shangukeidí ka Cháak' naa xat sitee.

Kawdliyaayi Hit áyá xát.

Lukaax.adi yádi áyá xát.

My Tlingit names are Yéideilats'ok and Kaahani

I am of the Thunderbird Clan and the Eagle Moiety.

I am from the House Lowered from the Sun of Klukwan.

I am a Child of the Sockeye Clan.

My Tlingit names embody my social identity and cultural values. They establish a bond between me and my ancestors, and they create a responsibility to our future generations. My social identity reflects our world view and our relationship to our land and environment.

My English name is Rosita Worl, and I serve as President of the Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI), whose mission is to perpetuate and enhance the cultures of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshians. SHI has been engaged in language restoration efforts for the last twelve years.

I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 254, “An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the Preservation, Restoration, and Revitalization of Alaska Native languages.” I would also like to commend you in this noble effort to support the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of this State.

I will not dwell on the historical reasons and circumstances as to why Native languages are on the verge of extinction. Rather, I will focus on the positive results that the adoption of this bill and language revitalization can bring to Alaska Natives and to the State of Alaska.

First, it is important to briefly outline the status of Alaska Native languages today. Unless remedial action is initiated, most all of Alaska Native languages will join their already extinct linguistic relative, the Eyak, within a few short decades. According to a UNESCO report on endangered languages, Inupiaq in the North Slope and Kotzebue and the Gwich'in Athabaskan languages are “severely endangered,” meaning that the languages are spoken by grandparents and older generations. While the parent generations may understand Inupiaq and Gwich'in Athabaskan, they do not generally speak these languages to children or among themselves. Aleut and the Southeast Alaska Native languages are “critically endangered” meaning that the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently. Yup'ik, which is the healthiest indigenous language in

Alaska, is classified as “vulnerable.” This means that most children speak the language; but it may be restricted to certain domains such as in the home. I note with deep regret that Eyak is extinct.

In the 1990s, Alaska Natives began to advocate in earnest for the revitalization of indigenous languages. Sealaska was successful in advancing an amendment to the Native American Languages Esther Martinez Act of 1992 that provided for language revitalization programs in Alaska based on the status of our language restoration efforts at that time. I am enclosing a report prepared by the Sealaska Heritage Institute that provides an overview of the language programs administered by Alaska Native organizations today. We apologize that it may be an incomplete record, but it should provide for you the range and the limitations of the programs that are operating in the state. To my knowledge, state funding is not available for language restoration programs. The unfortunate reality is that the federal funding level has been woefully inadequate with something like \$4 million in competitive grants available annually for all tribes throughout the United States. The gains we made in federal funding through aggressive advocacy on our part have been offset by the shrinking federal appropriations in the last few years, and we are yet struggling to ensure that funding for the Alaska Native Education Equity Act continues. Thus, the state’s effort to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages becomes even more critically imperative.

It is also important to briefly review the work of the Alaska Native Language Center in the event it might be suggested that its work may be duplicated by the proposed Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council. The ANLC was established by state legislation in 1972, and it has focused on the documentation of Alaska Native languages. While the study of Native languages is important, documentation, which has been the primary focus on the ANLC, does not by itself, lead to restoration of a language. Documentation does not include the development of curriculum or the training of teachers to provide instruction on Native languages. Native language curricula and Native language teachers are critical in language revitalization. Rather than documentation, the heart of the Council's work will be to "advise the governor and the legislature on programs, policies, and projects for cost effective preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages in the state." This work together with the necessary funding can ensure that one of our most significant resources in the state survives.

Native organizations have the capacity to implement language revitalization programs as reflected by the report I am submitting to you. Native Peoples have been staunch advocates of language revitalization efforts, and I would stress that it is essential that Native organizations be eligible recipients of state funds. Michael Krauss, the foremost linguist in the state, recognized the importance of Native American organizations and tribes as applicants for funding in his testimony supporting the Native American Languages Act of

1992. He stated “you cannot from outside inculcate into people the will to revive or maintain their languages” (Hinton 2001).

I would further recommend that the legislature and administration adopt interim measures to immediately support revitalization language projects for the most critically endangered languages. However, I also want to assure you that I am of the firm opinion that the legislation to establish the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council must be adopted if we are to ensure the survival of Native languages. The Council must formulate policies that support the revitalization of Native languages and identify barriers that threaten the survival of Native language.

Significantly, one of the most immediate effects of the legislation is that it would serve to reverse the perception that the State of Alaska is adverse to linguistic diversity. It would further send a powerful message that Alaska sees indigenous languages as a part of its heritage to be protected. Unfortunately, the adoption of the English-Only legislation in 1998¹ was interpreted by many, and certainly by the Alaska Native population, as an effort to suppress Native languages. Although this may not have been the intent, I would hope that one

¹ The legislation restricted the state from conducting business in any language other than English with limited exceptions. In 2002, a superior court ruled that the law violates free speech rights, striking the law down. In 2007, the state Supreme Court issued a 4-1 split decision, ruling that the first section of the law (requiring English to be the only language used for government functions) is unconstitutional, and the second part (requiring English for all government documents and records) is constitutional as long as duplicates can be made in other languages.

of the first recommendations that the Council advances is a proposal to the legislature and the governor that Alaska join Hawaii in declaring that the state is officially multi-lingual.

The adoption of this legislation could also send a powerful message that indigenous languages are not evil or inferior to English. Children growing up with the perception that their language and culture are inferior more often develop low self-esteem, and studies have revealed that low self-esteem is a major factor in failure at school.

Conversely, a positive self-identity is a prerequisite to academic achievement. However, the emotional benefit of a positive self-identity must be accompanied by real changes in the classroom that provide for the teaching of Native language and culture. This will require considerable work and funding.

Sealaska Heritage Institute has consistently conducted evaluations of our programs in which Native language and culture are taught in schools. The curricula we have developed and the professional development workshops we have offered to teachers are oriented towards the instruction of Native language and culture. Equally important, our objectives have been to improve the academic status of our students by advancing critical thinking, knowledge and science. Our evaluations reveal that students do better academically when they are taught Native language and culture. We are preparing a longitudinal

study of students who have participated in the demonstration project we initiated in the Juneau schools, and we will be pleased to share the report with the committee when it is complete. We are confident that the study will demonstrate the academic achievement which results from the incorporation of Native language and cultural studies into the classroom. However, we have grave concerns that the school district will not be able to sustain their minimal efforts they have provided in teaching Native languages.

I believe that the legislature understands the social and economic costs to a society and to the state when a significant percent of the population has a poor education. It is my hope that our society will come to accept and understand that the incorporation of Native language and culture into our schools leads to improved academic success that ultimately benefits the individual students as well as our state and society.

Native languages contain intellectual wealth accumulated through thousands upon thousands of years. They have conveyed how Native people see and use the land. The difference in world views among different Alaska Native cultural groups was readily apparent to me when I was conducting field work in the North Slope studying whale hunting. I absolutely could not see the grey patches on the horizon that my companion hunters saw that signified open water. Neither did I know the over eighty terms they had in their language to distinguish the different types of ice (Nelson 1969). Knowledge of ice is critical

to the survival of the hunters who harvest whale, marine mammals and fowl on the sea ice. The 3,300 Tlingit place names that Sealaska Heritage will be publishing in a cultural geographic atlas provide knowledge about our environment and land in Southeast Alaska. Interestingly, these names may also provide information about climate change through thousands of years. Language is a uniquely a human gift central to our experience of being human and Alaska Natives. This knowledge and the differing world views are worthy of protection and transmittal to future generations. Linguistic and cultural diversity is a benefit to society.

Unfortunately Native languages are on the road to extinction unless we initiate immediate efforts to rectify this trend. I urge that the legislature act immediately to adopt HB 254, "An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the Preservation, Restoration, and Revitalization of Alaska Native languages."

I would like to dedicate my testimony to the late Dr. Bill Demmert of Klawock, who served as a Professor of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast. He was the first and only Native to serve as Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Education. He was an educator with national prominence and was instrumental in the passage of the Indian Education Act. He was also a staunch advocate of Native language restoration and studied how Native language contributes to academic success. We were fortunate to

have him serve on the Board of Trustees of the Sealaska Heritage Institute. I would also like to respectfully recommend that the state legislature consider incorporating his name into the title of HB 254 "The Bill Demmert Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council." It would be a tribute to all who have worked tirelessly to revitalize Alaska Native languages.

Gunulchéesh

References

- Hinton, Leanne.
2001. "Federal Language Policy and Indigenous Languages in the United States." In Hinton, L. and Ken Hale. 2001. *The Green Book of Language Revitalization in Practice*. Academic Press. San Diego. pp. 39-48.
- Nelson, Richard.
1969. *Hunters of the Northern Ice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sealaska Heritage Institute

Alaska Native Language Programs

January 2012

Alaska Natives are comprised of seven linguistic groups including the Inupiat, Yup'ik, Aleut, Athabaskan, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian. Each has or had its own indigenous language. But today, no group is producing new speakers with Native as their first language. Many have language revitalization efforts in which students learn many nouns, some verbs, some greetings and introductions. None are producing fluent or even proficient speakers. Most programs are for beginners and a few are for intermediate learners. Very few programs are for advanced learners. Many communities have singing and dancing groups where individuals learn songs in their Native language and may or may not know the meaning of the words they are singing. At this time, many young Native individuals have expressed great interest in learning their language. Native language acquisition formerly occurred in the homes. Because of many factors, parents today do not know their Native language and are unable to teach the language to their children. The challenge of teaching Native languages has largely been left to schools and community organizations. This paper provides a brief summary of programs offered around the state. Not all regions responded to the request from Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) for information about their language programs. We received responses from seven regions. The Arctic Slope and Aleutian Pribiloff provided SHI the most detailed information. Other language revitalization programs may exist in Alaska of which we are not aware.

From Barrow to Metlakatla, community organizations and school districts are offering language programs. In the Arctic Slope, the schools teach the four dialects of Iñupiaq throughout the 12 schools in the district. The Iñupiaq Education program has created VIVA (Visual Iñupiaq Vocabulary Acquisition) online language units. Each unit contains its own assessment and scoring—students' keep track of their own progress. Once a unit is completed, the students practice their verbal pronunciation with a fluent speaker—the district employs fourteen fluent Iñupiaq speakers. This program is noteworthy for several reasons: sequential units based on the Greymorning method, scoring contained within each unit; emphasis on hearing the language tied with images rather than words and pronunciation work with fluent speakers. Classes are held 3-5 times per week in the elementary school and are available as electives

in the middle and high schools. Production of the VIVA units requires a full-time curriculum developer. The units are recorded in four Iñupiaq dialects. The North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) is also working with cultural units and developing a math program based on the traditional Iñupiaq number system.

Nome is adapting its language program based on the NSBSD materials. They are receiving training from the curriculum developer on how to create their own programs using 'flash'. This region has a web-based vocabulary development game. They are recording fluent speakers of the different Iñupiaq dialects. Their record demonstrates the benefits of sharing resources, materials and staff knowledge to maximize the language revitalization efforts in our state.

In the northwest Arctic, 14% of residents are fluent in Iñupiaq. Of these speakers, 92% are over the age of 65.² Despite the disheartening statistics, communities are taking action to ensure the language survives. NANA Regional Corporation entered into a unique partnership with Rosetta Stone to produce an interactive computer learning program as part of the Rosetta Stone Endangered Language Program. Software for the two predominant dialects in the region was made available to the head of household for each family of shareholders and is available for sale. An additional effort to perpetuate the language in the region is the immersion school in Kotzebue, Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat. For 13 years, approximately 20 students age 3 through first grade have been learning all subjects solely in Iñupiatun. The Nikaitchuat staff hope to someday offer more grades at the school. The University of Alaska Fairbanks Chukchi Campus based in Kotzebue, offers an Iñupiaq A.A.S. degree and certificate program. Classes are available online so students in the villages are able to participate. Finally, the Aqqaluk Trust is a non-profit organization with the mission: "Empowering the Iñupiat people through language, culture and education." The Aqqaluk Trust coordinates the regional Iñupiaq Language Commission and conducts Camp Sivunniigvik each summer, at which children from across the region spend one week sessions on the banks of the Kobuk River enveloped in Iñupiaq traditions, values and the Iñupiaq language.

Bethel has operated an immersion school for more than 17 years. They have produced many materials including Big Books in their Yup'ik language.

Other regions are also making use of technology. The Kodiak area has produced an online audio dictionary and electronic Aluutiq flashcards. They

² Survey of Residents of the Northwest Arctic Borough conducted by the Aqqaluk Trust and the Native Village of Kotzebue in 2005.

also have a Stories and Lost Words project and are in a consortium with Port Lions and the Aluutiq Museum. Today there are only 45 fluent speakers of the Alutiiq language, the traditional language of the Native people of the Kodiak Archipelago, only 11 of which can speak the Northern Dialect, the traditional language of the *Ag'uanermiut* (people of Afognak). All the speakers are Elders. Alutiiq, like so many Alaska Native languages, struggles for survival. Afognak Native Corporation has funded a language program operated by the Native Village of Afognak and Native Village of Port Lions to create innovative language learning tools. See Alutiiq Language Website: <http://www.ktuu.com/features/assignmentak/learning-alutiiqonline-20120112,0,5807593.story> and Alutiiq iPhone Application: <http://www.ktuu.com/videobeta/80965544-341f-44e4-8e14-5210bac33c9b/News/Afognak-Alutiiq-Connect-iPhone-app-intro>. Through the joint efforts of the Alaska Native Corporations and Tribes in the Kodiak Archipelago and the Alutiiq Museum, language restoration efforts are underway.

The Chugach Region has produced many posters, videos and books. They also teach Aluutiq at Spirit Camp each summer.

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands region is the only one of the seven regions who reported that Native language still spoken in the home although we suspect this is also the case in Yup'ik villages. The village of Atka reports that Unangam Tunuu (Aleut) is still spoken in one-fourth of the homes. They report that there are 124 fluent speakers still living representing 3.5% of the enrolled tribal members. Two of the 12 schools in the region offer language and culture classes in the curriculum. Ten schools offer limited exposure to language and culture. In Atka, where $\frac{1}{4}$ of the homes still speak Unangam Tunuu (Aleut), a fluent speaker teaches language classes one hour/day. In St. Paul, a certified teacher is also a fluent Unangam Tunuu speaker. She teaches one language class, five days per week. There is an active singing and drumming group. Youth and elders collaborate to write lyrics for new songs. At community gatherings elders speak Unangam Tunuu. Three culture camps are held during the summer months. The region is seeking \$1,000,000 to create a Rosetta Stone product for Unangam Tunuu. The corporation board of directors has committed themselves to one hour of language lessons during each of the three annual meetings.

Southeast Alaska has many and varied programs. Throughout the region, "language learners," who are teachers and who are yet learning their Native

language, teach with few exceptions all language classes in some cases in collaboration with fluent speakers. Yakutat has federal funding to write children's stories in Tlingit and develop learning materials for the stories. Local students and artists illustrate the stories. The core language staff work with fluent speakers on a weekly basis. Classes are taught outside the school system. Klukwan classes are taught in the school while in Haines, language classes are taught in the local museum. In Juneau, the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation is developing curriculum and working with teachers and fluent speakers to develop lessons using the Tlingit Verb Index. The region-wide entity, Sealaska Heritage Institute, produces curriculum and provides teacher training on a region-wide basis. SHI is concentrating on the Developmental Language Process (DLP) and has produced curriculum materials for academic content areas (math, science, social studies and literature), as well as Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian DLP units. SHI has also published Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian dictionaries and has highly popular interactive language programs on its website. SHI sponsors summer basketball camps in which Native language instruction is integrated into basketball training. Both Goldbelt Heritage and SHI sponsor summer camps for youth. The camps feature language classes but are not conducted in the language. Other communities in Southeast have Tlingit language classes in the schools (Hoonah, Sitka and Kake). Wrangell and Ketchikan have programs after school.

In addition to offering classes, Ketchikan Indian Community has devoted time and grant money to improve advanced learner skills. One Haida, Tsimshian and Tlingit advanced learner is teamed with fluent speakers. They spend a significant amount of their week with the fluent speakers. The goal is to increase the learners' skills to proficiency. This is the only program in the state with that stated goal although others may be doing the same work.

University of Alaska Southeast has offered Tlingit classes at beginners and intermediate levels, as well as studies of oral literature and narratives. UAS also offers mentor-apprentice classes. The University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks also offer Native language classes.

In summary, a significant effort is being expended in the state to revitalize Native languages. The programs focus on using technology to teach vocabulary. Most regions are recording fluent speakers. Some regions are sharing resources and adapting materials for their own dialects. None of the regions reported stability in their Native language. Fluent speakers are passing on with no new speakers replacing them. Hundreds of learners of all ages are

learning nouns, verbs, greetings and introductions. Few progress to proficiency.

The major expressed needs are:

- Programs to support teacher language learners to work with fluent speakers to increase their own language proficiency. Mentor apprentice programs appear to be very effective.
- Programs to recruit more language learners into the teaching of the language.
- Stable funding for these programs so that teacher/learners know they can count on their program continuing.
- Curriculum development at all levels and ongoing, teacher training workshops.

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau

State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4527
Fax (907) 465-2197



Interim

1292 Sadler Way, Ste 328
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 452-3434
Fax (907) 452-3430
Toll-Free (800) 491-4527

Representative Alan Dick

House District 6

Witness List

House Bill 254: Alaska Native Language Council

Annette Kreitzer, Staff to Representative Alan Dick, Sponsor
Rosita Worl, Sealaska Corp. (JNU)
Annette Evans Smith, Alaska Native Heritage Center (offnet 330-8000)
Scott Ruby, Director Community & Regional Affairs (DCC&ED)
Byron Mallott, Sealaska Board member (offnet)
Liz Medicine Crow, First Alaskans (offnet 952-7990)

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau

State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4527
Fax (907) 465-2197



Interim

1292 Sadler Way, Ste 328
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 452-3434
Fax (907) 452-3430
Toll-Free (800) 491-4527

Representative Alan Dick

House District 6

REQUEST FOR HEARING

TO: Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Alan Dick

Handwritten initials "AD" and a circled number "70".

DATE: February 6, 2012

RE: HB 254: ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE & ADVISORY COUNCIL

I respectfully request that the House State Affairs Committee schedule HB 254 for a hearing at its earliest convenience.

HB 254 establishes the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The Council is to advise the governor and legislature on cost-effective preservation, restoration and revitalization of Alaska Native languages in the state.

Its first report of findings and recommendations would be due July 1, 2014, with further reports due in even-numbered years.

For questions related to this bill, please either contact me or my staff, Annette Kreitzer at 465-4936.

*Keller Moved
Gruenberg objects
& removed @*

27-LS1145\M
Mischel
2/20/12

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 254()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

*Bob
Closed
Public
testimony*

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DICK AND MUÑOZ, Kerttula

A BILL

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17 member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate and one member of the
18 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives shall
19 serve on the council as nonvoting members. *offer delete starting with "In"*
20 the council, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives
21 shall appoint a member of the bush caucus, if a bush caucus exists. In this subsection,
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Gruenberg 833 2

Johansen Amend #1 Wilson Object

Gruenberg 841 a

L

1 sec. 2 of this Act, on or before December 1, 2012.

~~Johansen~~
~~X~~

	Peterson	absent
	Seaton	N
	Greenberg	Y
	Lynn	N
	Keller	N
	Wilson	N
	Johansen	X

Amend #1 failed

passed

AMENDMENT

#1

Keller

*Wilson objects &
removes
objection*

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHJR 34(MLV)

1 Page 4, lines 26 - 28:

2 Delete "icebreakers, including charging for icebreaker escorts, the option to lease
3 rather than own the icebreakers needed in the Arctic, and selling our aging icebreakers to the
4 private sector for refurbishment"

5 Insert "the refurbishment of our current polar class icebreakers, the acquisition of new
6 icebreakers, and the long-term maintenance funding of the United States Coast Guard
7 icebreaker fleet and Arctic facilities"

*Amend 1 to amend 1 Gruenberg
Withdrawn*

HOUSE BILL NO. 254

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DICK AND MUÑOZ, Kerttula

Introduced: 1/17/12

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council
2 and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native
3 languages."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that the preservation of Alaska
8 Native languages is a critical component in the sustenance of cultural identity. The legislature
9 further finds that Alaska Native languages are the foundation of cultures and are vital in
10 maintaining traditional knowledge and understanding.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Article 7A. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.**

13 **Sec. 44.33.530. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory**
14 **Council.** (a) The Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is

1 established in the department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or
2 reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization
3 of Alaska Native languages.

4 (b) The council established under this section shall

5 (1) advise both the governor and legislature on programs, policies, and
6 projects to provide for the cost-effective preservation, restoration, and revitalization of
7 Alaska Native languages in the state;

8 (2) meet at least twice a year to carry out the purposes of the council;
9 members may participate in meetings telephonically; and

10 (3) prepare reports of its findings and recommendations for the
11 governor's and the legislature's consideration on or before January 1 of each even-
12 numbered year.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section five
14 voting members who are professional language experts and who represent diverse
15 regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the president
16 of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker
17 of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting members. In
18 appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the senate and the
19 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the bush caucus, if a
20 bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group of legislators that
21 represents rural areas of the state.

22 (d) The members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the
23 governor.

24 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
25 to per diem and travel expenses as provided under AS 39.20.180.

26 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
27 read:

28 **REPORT; APPOINTMENTS.** (a) Notwithstanding AS 44.33.530(b)(3), the first
29 report under AS 44.33.530(b)(3), added by sec. 2 of this Act, is due on or before July 1, 2014.

30 (b) The governor shall make the appointments required by AS 44.33.530(c), added by
31 sec. 2 of this Act, on or before December 1, 2012.

*Johanson
9/22/12
Johanson
"shall advise
the governor"
on page 2
9/28/12
w/iso
9/4/12*

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE :

TO: HB 254

1 Page 2, line 14:

2 Delete "who are professional language experts and"

3

4 Page 2, line 15, following "state":

5 Insert ", three of whom are professional Alaska Native language revitalization experts
6 and two of whom are fluent in an Alaska Native language and who are engaged in
7 revitalization efforts"

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HB 254
 Fiscal Note Number _____
 () Publish Date _____

Identifier (file name) HB254-DCCED-ANLC-02-10-12 Dept. Affected DCCED
 Title Alaska Native Language Council Appropriation Community and Regional Affairs
 Allocation Community and Regional Affairs
 Sponsor Representatives Dick and Munoz
 Requester House State Affairs OMB Component Number 2879

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	168.7		168.7	168.7	168.7	168.7	168.7	168.7
Travel	16.5		16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
Services	30.0		30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
Commodities	25.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants, Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	240.2	0.0	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)						
1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF	240.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		240.2	0.0	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2	216.2

POSITIONS							
Full-time	2		2	2	2	2	2
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required;
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version

Prepared by Scott Ruby, Director
 Division Community and Regional Affairs
 Approved by JoEllen Hanrahan, Director Administrative Services
Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone 269-4569
 Date/Time 2/10/12 9:30 AM
 Date 2/10/2012

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 254

Analysis

HB 254 will establish the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council for the purpose of preserving, restoring, and revitalizing Alaska Native languages.

The Council will consist of five voting members appointed by the Governor and two non-voting members, one from the State Senate and one from the House of Representatives. The Council must meet a minimum of twice a year and may meet telephonically.

Personal Services includes two full time staff, a Research Analyst range 18 and Administrative Assistant III range 15.

Travel includes airfare, per diem, hotel, and miscellaneous costs for seven members and the two support staff to have two face-to-face meetings annually. The estimate assumes one meeting will be in Fairbanks and the other in a rural hub such as Bethel.

Services include support for core service costs, communications, advertising, and other costs for research and reporting.

Commodities include one-time start up costs for cubicle, equipment, desk, chair, shelving, and on-going supplies.



Alaska Association for Bilingual Education
An Affiliate of TESOL and NABE

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Dear Alaska State Senators,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 130 on behalf of the Alaska Association for Bilingual Education Alaska Native Language and Culture Retention Special Interest Group. The Alaska Native Language and Culture Retention Special Interest Group (ANLCR SIG) is comprised of a cross section of volunteer Native language educators, advocates, and activists working to protect, promote, and revitalize Native languages. As the only statewide Native language advocacy body, the ANLCR SIG carries out this work through conferencing and workshops, networking best practices, and advocating for institutional and governmental support for Native language revitalization initiatives. As a volunteer body our resources and ability to be effective are strained, however, which is why in 2010 the ANLCR SIG sought the creation of a statewide Alaska Native Languages Commission through Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution 10-34. It is for this reason that the ANLCR SIG enthusiastically supports SB 130.

SB 130 will help provide the political advocacy, human and financial resources Alaska Native language advocates, activists, and educators need to craft policies and projects that will contribute to the protection, promotion, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages. Such support is urgently needed at a time when all 19 indigenous languages still spoken in Alaska are endangered or critically endangered. The passing in 2008 of Marie Smith Jones, the last fluent speaker of Eyak, underscores the vulnerability of Alaska Native languages and the urgency with which we must undertake this vital work.

Native languages and the rich cultures they make possible constitute an invaluable contribution to the diversity and richness of our State, and are together an essential component of Alaska's identity. Indeed, there is nothing more Alaskan than Alaska Native languages, and future generations of Alaskans deserve the opportunity to experience and speak them.

Sincerely,

Timothy Aqukkasuk Argetsinger
Chair, AK Native Language and Culture Retention SIG



ALASKA
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January 20, 2012

Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Honorable Alaska State Legislators:

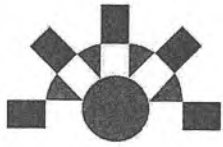
On behalf of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and the many cultural and language bearers we serve and represent, I ardently express my support for Senate Bill 130 and House Bill 254 in the second session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature, both entitled "An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages."

The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) is a 501(c) 3, non-profit organization whose mission is to serve as a gathering place for sharing, perpetuating and preserving Alaska's unique indigenous cultures, languages, traditions and values through celebration and education. Our 15-member Board of Directors is currently governed by members of the 13 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) Regions including Cook Inlet Region Inc., Chugach Alaska Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, NANA Regional Corporation, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Koniag, Inc., Sealaska Corporation, and Ahtna, Inc.

As Alaska Native people, our indigenous languages fulfill a vital role in perpetuating cultural traditions and values. It is our sincere belief that it is critical to take proactive measures now to strengthen our languages while language speakers in each of the Alaska Native culture groups still exist, and the interest and aspiration to revitalize our languages for future generations is strong. At our core, we recognize that indigenous language learning promotes increased self-esteem and confidence for Alaska Natives, particularly youth, and a strong cultural identity and knowledge of self translates into a stronger person overall. In a recent early childhood development study (McIvor 2005), University of Victoria, B.C. researchers and speech pathologists working with Canadian First Nations have documented strong linkages between indigenous children who have a strong traditional cultural and linguistic background and academic and overall well-being.

Our vision is to promote intergenerational learning from within the indigenous Alaskan community. ANHC has sought to advocate for active language learning by hosting learning sessions for several Alaska Native languages, including Unangax (Aleut), Sugstun (Alutiiq), Iñupiaq, Tlingit, and Yup'ik, while the most thorough instructional efforts have been for Dena'ina Athabascan. Further efforts are underway as ANHC seeks Administration for Native





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Americans (ANA) grant funds, through the United States Department of Health and Social Services. The project will assess and identify local and statewide resources and partnerships that could be made available to Alaska Natives living in Anchorage, for teaching languages within the Eskimo-Aleut speaking, Athabascan speaking, and Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian/Eyak speaking nations.

Progressively, ANHC is working to develop programs on site at the Center to provide indigenous language learning opportunities in a full immersion environment. Such opportunities are urgently needed at a time when all 19 indigenous languages still spoken in Alaska are endangered or critically endangered. The passing in 2008 of Chief Marie Smith Jones, the last fluent speaker of Eyak, underscores the vulnerability of Alaska Native languages.

SB 130 / HB 254 will help provide the much-needed political infrastructure, as well as resources both human and financial, to build and follow policies within and outside the state government, to promote sustainable Alaska Native language efforts. Meaningful investment by the State of Alaska in the cultural strengthening of Alaska Native languages will not only contribute to a stronger Alaska Native society, but a stronger Alaska as a whole, and therefore warrants the highest legislative priority.

I am available to discuss this matter, and provide verbal or written testimony to further provide evidence for these facts, in my vehement support for SB 130 / HB 254.

Sincerely,

Annette Evans Smith, President & CEO
Alaska Native Heritage Center



January 18, 2012

Senator Donald Olson
Alaska State Capitol Room 508
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

Chugachmiut appreciates your introduction of SB 130 for the purpose of establishing an Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council within the State of Alaska. We fully support the bill and encourage the legislature to adopt it this year.

As I reflect on the Suqpiaq language spoken in our area, and how close it came to extinction, I am comforted that federal language grants have given us an opportunity to preserve it and teach a new generation of speakers. Yet we are losing our teachers at a very rapid rate. One of our few Elder speakers passed away recently and we feel the loss deeply. We relied extensively on him to help guide our language restoration efforts.

Our tribes are clear and focused on preservation of Suqpiaq and teaching our youth. Nanwalek has struggled for years to support an immersion school. We are now finding some acceptance for language instruction in our public schools. Chugachmiut has collaborated with the 2 school districts with schools in our villages over the past 2 years and we hope to see more in the future.

An Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council as proposed in your bill would be extremely beneficial to our language preservation effort. Please let us know what we can do to support it.

Respectfully,

Patrick M. Anderson
Executive Director



January 18, 2012

Senator Donald Olson
Community and Regional Affairs Committee Chair
State of Alaska
State Capitol Building Rm 508
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Senator Olson:

I am writing to convey my support for Senate Bill 130, a bill to establish an Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council. The creation of such a council is desperately needed and is long overdue.

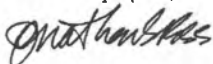
In recognition of the languages of the Alaska Native peoples being treasures, and in support of our own efforts, as indigenous peoples, to maintain and develop our languages, it is my belief that the State of Alaska should make it a policy to act and assist the effort to revitalize, maintain, and development of the languages of Alaska's indigenous people with the creation of an Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council.

In addition to a making a shift from a past colonial government policies which have devastated languages and cultures of Alaska's indigenous peoples, and current policies which have perpetuated their decline, significant resources should also be applied to implement the initial and on-going activities of the Council. Time is of the essence as we continue to have elders and best indigenous language speakers pass on. As our languages are restored and valued for the treasures that they are Alaska will become a richer place for all.

I understand you are compiling a list of people to provide testimony during the first committee hearing with State Affairs which is chaired by Senator Wielechowski. I am willing to testify by phone during the committee hearing which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th at 9:30am. I could be available to call in at about 9:15 if I am provided the opportunity.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation and for your support of the Alaska Native peoples of Alaska.

Shesh t'qe\ani,



Jonathon S. Ross
President and Principle Consultant



23 January 2012

Honorable Donny Olson, Senator
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Olson:

It brings me gratification to see the introduction of Senate Bill 130 - Alaska Native Language & Advisory Council, "An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the preservation, restoration and revitalization of Alaska Native Languages."

I have been working in the field of language preservation and perpetuation for nearly 40 years and have seen first hand the extreme decline of the Iñupiaq language. A handful of our people have devoted their lives to teaching it in the hopes of reversing this loss. Much remains to be done.

I write in support of the bill and urge passage. Having an Advisory Council whose responsibility would be to advocate for Native languages across the state will go a long ways towards creating an atmosphere where we can realize a shift in language priorities in Alaska. It is high time the state recognize the importance of perpetuating the languages of its indigenous peoples.

Quyanaq.

Respectfully yours,

Jana Harcharek, Director
Inupiaq Education



January 20, 2012

Senator Donald Olson
State Capitol Building
Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support of SB 130, Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council

Dear Senator Olson:

In the majestic forests of Southeast Alaska, along the coastlines of *Haa Aani* (Our Land), our people have gathered in the clan houses and told our stories for thousands of years, passing down the wisdom of Elders and the richness of our culture for generations. This oral history stood unbroken for centuries, but now the languages of the Alaska Native people face extinction. It is imperative that these languages be preserved and with them, the foundation of Alaska Native cultures and ancient traditional knowledge.

Sealaska Corporation offers its overwhelming support of SB 130, An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages. Sealaska urges the Alaska State Legislature and Governor of Alaska to also champion an allocation of funds to programs that restore Alaska Native Languages.

We can all be part of a solution to address the many challenges facing Alaska Natives. Native youth have been shown to improve academic performance when taught in their Native tongue; healthy self-esteem has been linked to a strong sense of identity; and thriving communities are built on the foundation of strong family relationships and lines of communication.

Please share this letter of support to any extent that it might encourage others to vote for the passage of SB 130, and secure funding for programs to restore the words of our ancestors.

Sincerely,

Albert Kookesh, Board Chair
SEALASKA CORPORATION



CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

21 January 2012

Senator Donald C. Olson
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol, Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

FAX: 907-465-4821

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 130

Good afternoon, Senator Olson:

The Administration, Council and I personally, wish to commend you on the introduction of Senate Bill 130, Alaska Native Language & Advisory Council, in the Alaska State Legislature. We understand that the first hearing on this bill will be presented in hearing tomorrow, 24 January 2012, in the Committee for State Affairs. Because of our short notice on this hearing, please submit and accept this letter as the City of Barrow's unqualified but interim support in this effort.

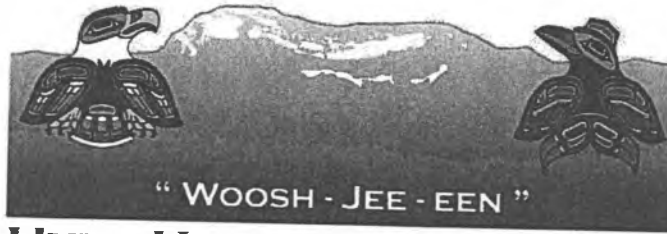
For the Barrow City Council meeting this Thursday, 26 January 2012, I have submitted a formal resolution indicating the City's unqualified endorsement of this legislation for Council ratification. On Friday of this week, I will send you a copy of that ratified endorsement for your files.

Senator Olson, I commend you on taking the initiative of introducing this long-overdue and necessary piece of legislation. I look forward in discussing its progress through the legislature with you. If there is any way that the City of Barrow can assist in facilitating its passage, please do not hesitate to contact me. I also look forward to visiting you in Juneau during the second week in February.

Cordially,

Bob Harcharek, Mayor

Cc: Mayor Charlotte Brower, NSB
Barrow City Council
Su Jana Harcharek, Director Bilingual Education NSBSD
Jana Harcharek, Director Bilingual Education NSBSD
Files



HUNA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

9301 GLACIER HIGHWAY #210 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 523-3682 • (907) 789-1896 (FAX)
HERITAGE@HUNATOTEM.COM • HUNAHERITAGE.ORG

January 23, 2012

Senator Donald C. Olson
Alaska State Capitol Rm 508
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

The Huna Heritage Foundation wholeheartedly supports Senate Bill 130 which would establish the Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council to assess the State of Alaska Native Languages and re-evaluate the programs within the state and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to establish new programs or reorganize the current programs.

SB 130 would help to preserve and maintain Alaska Native Languages which are critical to the preservation and cultural ideas and traditions of all Alaska Natives.

We believe that SB130 would support indigenous languages and help stem the tide of language extinction within the great state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Marlene Johnson
Board President
Huna Heritage Foundation