



Alaska State Legislature

1970

Source:

HCR 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Relating to the teaching of courses of cultural relevance and importance in the elementary and secondary schools.

BE IT RESOLVED

BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the teaching of the history, cultures and languages of the Native peoples of Alaska to all students has been sadly neglected in Alaska's schools; and

WHEREAS these courses are invaluable to the Native student as a means of self-enrichment and of enhancement of self-image and pride, and through being made available to all students they can serve as a bridge for intercultural understanding and communication; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Education, in cooperation with the Alaska Rural Schools Project, the Governor's Commission on Cross-Cultural Education, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, the University of Alaska and other interested groups, agencies and individuals, has in recent years begun to develop programs to meet the special educational needs of Native Alaskans; and

WHEREAS the Alaskan Reader series, the curriculum guides for the teaching of modern math, social studies, science, natural history, music, art and other courses in ways which are relevant to the culture and background of the students being taught, the development of Arctic and Sub-Arctic curricula, The Source Book on Alaska, the Native studies programs, and other such programs, all are worthy and commendable efforts to bridge the educational, social and cultural gaps which exist between the cultural and ethnic groups of Alaska; and

WHEREAS these programs must be expanded further, the pace at which they are being developed intensified, their utilization for all pupils throughout the state encouraged and their existence and importance publicized, in order to provide the best elementary and secondary education possible for all the youth of the state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to direct the Department of Education to intensify and broaden its programs to develop culturally relevant programs for the Native pupils in the state, to encourage the teaching of Native studies to all pupils regardless of cultural or ethnic background, and to stimulate and encourage the utilization of these programs in the city and borough schools throughout the state.