

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

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60



Supporting the establishment of a Joint Commission on the Status of Alaska Natives by Congress.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Alaska Natives were the first residents of the state and today represent a significant percentage of the residents of the state, particularly residents who live in rural villages; and

WHEREAS since 1867 Alaska Natives have had a special relationship with the federal government and since 1959 have had an important relationship with the state; and

WHEREAS in 1971 the state participated in the settlement of Native land claims and since that time has worked closely with the federal government and Native organizations to develop and implement federal and state policies intended to improve the health, social, and economic status of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS several recently published articles and reports have documented a growing social and economic crisis in the lives of many Alaska Natives, particularly Alaska Natives who live in rural villages, and presented disturbing statistics that attest to growing health and social problems, lack of economic opportunity, and widespread educational failure in the Native community; and

WHEREAS since 1969, when the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning issued its report "Alaska Natives and the Land," there has been no comprehensive review of federal and state policies and programs that affect Alaska Natives, their implementation, or the extent to which they have improved the health, social, and economic status of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives have expressed to the Congress and the state a critical need to review the current status of Alaska

Natives and to forge a renewed partnership among the federal and state governments and Alaska Natives, with the goal of providing new opportunities, making governmental programs more effective, and building a healthy, productive, and self-reliant rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in response to this expressed need, the United States Congress is considering the establishment of a Joint Commission on the Status of Alaska Natives, the membership of which will include federal and state officials and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the commission will be to conduct a comprehensive review of federal and state policies affecting Alaska Natives, the implementation of those policies, and the current health, social, and economic status of Alaska Natives;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the establishment of the Joint Commission on the Status of Alaska Natives by the Congress and commits the State of Alaska to actively participate on the commission and in its work.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chair, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; the Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chair, Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.