

SESSION

State Capitol, Rm 504
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4968 Phone
senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

INTERIM

1500 W. Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone (907) 269-0117



Senator Mia Costello Senate District K

Jewel Lake, Kincaid, Turnagain, Lake Hood, Sand Lake, Spenard, Dimond, Campbell Lake

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 17

"An Act authorizing the University of Alaska to establish, through an agreement with the University of Hawaii, the Ted Stevens - Daniel K. Inouye Exchange Program for political science students at the University of Alaska and the University of Hawaii to commemorate the bipartisan friendship between Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Daniel K. Inouye."

Senate Bill 17 establishes the Stevens-Inouye University Exchange Program at the University of Alaska and the University of Hawaii. The bill creates an exchange program between the universities for political science students and commemorates the decades-long friendship between Alaska Republican U.S. Senator Ted Stevens and Hawaii's Democratic U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. The program celebrates their legacy of bipartisan leadership and strengthens the bond between our two states.

Alaska and Hawaii are connected in numerous ways including a robust tourism industry, fishing and maritime support industries, and extensive military bases and personnel. Jet fuel makes up a larger share of petroleum consumption in Hawaii and Alaska than in any other state. But what truly embodies the relationship between our two states is the historic brotherhood between Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Daniel Inouye. Both combat veterans from World War II and champions for their states, the two were allies in Washington, D.C., serving together for nearly 40 years. They fought for the interests of their unique states, recognizing the challenge of being states both young and far from the lower 48.

Recognizing these similarities, Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye worked together across party lines and were committed to seeing the promises made at statehood brought to fruition. They worked relentlessly to ensure a prosperous future for their states.

Senate Bill 17 provides an opportunity for young Alaskans and Hawaiians to learn from each other and continue the legacy of Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Daniel Inouye. Students who participate in the exchange will gain a deeper understanding of the uniqueness of our states' histories and cultures and how the two intertwined over generations. This knowledge will equip these future leaders to better represent the unique and diverse interests of our states, and encourage a continued partnership benefiting future generations of Alaskans.

As we look forward to the future of our state, we remember those whose legendary leadership made Alaska what it is today. Providing opportunities for young Alaskans to grow into the next generation of leaders is paramount for our future. Students participating in the exchange will carry forth the values displayed by Senators Ted Stevens and Daniel K. Inouye. Senate Bill 17 provides this opportunity by opening the door between these two great states and the educational institutions that shape the young people who will guide our future.