



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

House Bill 38 Sponsor Statement

“An act authorizing the establishment of institutes of medicine and law at the University of Alaska.”

Alaska remains one of only six states that have no medical school and the only state without a law school. Alaska has a shortage of doctors which is likely to worsen as the state’s population increases and ages. The cost of healthcare and legal services will only continue to rise. That is why it is time to invest in education and build the workforce Alaska will need for the next 20 years.

Law and medical students are required to go out of state for their education, therefore Alaska suffers even more. Most students tend to remain in the area in which they earn their degrees. Conversely, the ‘Alaska Family Medicine Residency’ has an extremely high rate of return in which 70% of the 55 graduates have remained in Alaska. By enabling the University of Alaska to build schools of medicine and law; it creates a better foundation for future doctors and lawyers to stay in Alaska for their higher education.

Alaska shouldn’t deny opportunity to the best and brightest and export their talents, nor import professionals from the lower 48 who don’t have a connection to the state. They deserve the chance to attend medical or law school, without the high cost of transferring out of state, possibly moving back, tuition, and without the limitations set on programs such as WWAMI which only allows 20 students per year into medical school. I urge your support encouraging the University of Alaska to train the next generation of Alaskan doctors and lawyers through House Bill 38.

In Juneau ○ State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Fairbanks ○ 1292 Sadler Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Juneau ○ (907) 465-3466 ○ Fax (907) 465-2937 ○ **Fairbanks** ○ (907) 456-7423 ○ Fax (907) 451-9293

Email: Representative_Scott_Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us