

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203

(202) 224-6665  
(202) 224-5301 FAX

510 L STREET, SUITE 550  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956  
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278  
(907) 456-0233

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105  
KENAI, AK 99611-9104  
(907) 283-5808

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526  
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307  
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142  
(907) 376-7665

April 12, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

During the forthcoming deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we hope that you will note our strong, continued objection to the President's proposal to alter the way funding has been provided to grantees as authorized by the Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7511-7517) and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 7541-46). You may recall, and we appreciate, that you supported our request to exclude the President's proposal from the FY10 Appropriations bill.

The President's budget request proposes again this year to withhold funding for the named grant recipients authorized by Sections 7204 and 7304(d)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Section 7204 establishes the Native Hawaiian Education Council and authorizes the Council to make, coordinate, and assess grants that support Native Hawaiian Education programs and services. Section 7304(d)(2) directs the Secretary of Education to provide specific sums to support specific Alaska Native grantees' activities to address parenting education, cultural and language education, dropout prevention, and community engagement.

Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native students experience extraordinary challenges in achieving academic proficiency and are less likely to achieve successful and productive lives as adults than other groups of Americans. The attainment of educational success is critical to the improvement of the long-term well-being of both Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives. The programs and services provided by the Native Hawaiian Education Council and the Alaska Native Educational Equity directed grantees are effective in assisting Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native students and communities to successfully meet the challenges they face.

We believe that the President's proposal to alter the way funding is provided to these grant recipients is in error. Accordingly, we would appreciate your rejection of the President's proposal again this year. We certify that neither we nor our immediate families have a pecuniary interest in these congressionally directed spending items, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.



Daniel K. Inouye  
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

[HOME PAGE AND WEB MAIL](http://HOME.PAGE.AND.WEB.MAIL)  
[MURKOWSKI.SENATE.GOV](http://MURKOWSKI.SENATE.GOV)