

Legislation would aid victims of World War II relocations

WASHINGTON — Legislation to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was cosponsored recently by Sens. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski.

The commission conducted research into the facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation and internment of American citizens during World War II. The West Coast Americans of Japanese ancestry and Aleuts who were relocated during the war.

Under the bill, the Aleut Corp. would receive \$18 million in bidding credits which would be used toward the purchase of surplus federal property nationwide. In addition, the legislation would provide \$12,000 in restitution for each eligible survivor of the WWII Aleut relocation.

The bill also includes a request for \$15 million for environmental cleanup of the Aleutian Islands. Under the legislation, these funds could be made available to help complete the Defense

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Department's ongoing efforts to remove hazardous waste and unsafe structures and debris from military sites, including those abandoned following WWII.

"The commissioner's report documented the extreme hardships endured by the Aleuts during WWII and the losses they sustained. This legislation follows the recommendations of the commission by providing restitution to the survivors, as well as bidding credits, which the Native corporation could use to benefit later generations of Aleuts," Stevens said.

The legislation was referred to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee for consideration.