

Ainus of Japan Are Eying Alaska Native Claims

The Ainus on the northern part of the Island of Hokaido in Japan are keeping a close watch on the Alaska native land claims issue.

The Ainus are the aborigines of Japan and as such, are minorities of Japan.

State Rep. Gene Guess of Anchorage, who was in Japan not long ago, said the Ainus (pronounced I-news) are a small minority and having that status, suffer some discrimination in their homeland.

Guess said that the Ainus look very much like Eskimos. He said it was surprising that the Ainus had been following the progress of the native land claims in Alaska.