

Kawerak supports coop for Bering Straits carvers

Kawerak Inc., serving 18 Bering Straits villages, has given its support for the establishment of a Bering Straits ivory carvers' marketing cooperative, according to "Cultural Notes," a publication of the U.S. Department of Interior's Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

Kawerak also approached the Indian Arts and Crafts Board's Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, Okla., to inquire about a possible promotional sales exhibition of the cooperative's finest work.

The show was approved for April 1987, and it will be the second Bering Straits ivory carving exhibition held at a museum of the board. The first show, "Alaskan Eskimo Carvers of Gambell," was held at the Southern

Plains Indian Museum in the summer of 1982.

The decision to support a cooperative came after a marketing workshop last spring in Nome. The workshop was held in response to the carvers' economic need for better markets and an established network through which to sell their ivory products.