

Native teacher bill draws good response

The Associated Press

Kotzebue — A bill designed to encourage Alaska Natives who study to become teachers to return to classrooms in their villages to practice what they learn at college drew strong support at a hearing.

Under the bill (HB504) sponsored by House Speaker Joe

Hayes, R-Anchorage, and twenty-seven others, Natives studying education would be eligible for \$10,000 state loans. If they returned to their home district

and taught for four years the entire loan would be forgiven.

All of the some 15 Kotzebue residents who testified at a hearing conducted by Rep. Mae

Tischer, R-Anchorage, of the House Education and Social Services Committee expressed support for the bill. Several said having Native students have Na-

tive teachers would provide an important role model.

Further hearings were scheduled during the weekend at Nome and Bethel.