

Attempt made to increase funding

WASHINGTON—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, is joining other senators in an attempt to increase funding for a program to provide vocational training for Indians and Alaskan natives.

Known as the Indian Action Team Program (IATP), it would train Indians for work with their tribes and train natives to work with their villages or corporations.

In Alaska, the Kenai Natives
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Gravel supports vocational education funding

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Association, Inc. is currently enrolled in the program and the Tlingit-Haida Native Corporation has applied for the program.

Gravel said he will ask the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Robert Byrd, D-Va., to add \$24 million to the administration's request for the program.

The administration has requested funding equal to the amount the program received last year. Because of the addition of new participants, funding at last year's level would cause a reduction in funds to the individual groups.

"Because 31 new programs began in mid-year, the existing IATP groups would be

forced to make severe cuts unless funding is increased to at least \$20 million," Gravel said in a letter to Byrd.

Gravel said, "The success it (IATP) has demonstrated warrants increased funding."

Many of the trainees at the Kenai program have completed

their homes to work for their village or their corporation, according to Gravel. "This is not only a benefit for the individual, it is a benefit to the entire their training and returned to native community," the Alaska lawmaker added.