



January 1, 2025

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**KEY FUNDING AND LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**HOUSING**

*Nearly Doubled Funding for Native American Housing*

- **\$1.344 billion** for Native housing in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#), a \$324 million (32%) increase from FY 2023, to address historic underfunding compared to the total HUD budget --
  - **\$1.1 billion** (41% increase) for NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant program
  - **\$75 million** for the NAHASDA Indian Community Development Block Grant program for Native families to obtain new homes, make renovations, build community facilities, and receive housing services
  - **\$22 million** for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program

**HEALTH CARE**

*Safeguarded Native Health Care Funding*

- Passed [S. 3022 – IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2024](#) through the Senate
- Secured more than **\$7 billion** for Native health care in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#), including \$6.96 billion for the IHS and \$1.86 billion for the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems --
  - \$4.9 billion for Health Services and \$813 million for Health Facilities, which includes funding for the staffing of new facilities
  - Fully funded Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases
  - Provided advance appropriations for FY 2025

**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE**

*Protecting Native Children, Women, and Law Enforcement Officers in Indian Country, Alaska, and Hawai'i*

- Passed [S. 465 – BADGES for Native Communities Act](#) through the Senate
- Held 5 events relating to public safety issues, including examining federal resources to combat the fentanyl, opioid, and MMIP crises --
  - Business Meetings [“S. 465 - BADGES”](#) and [“S. 2695 - Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement”](#)

- Hearing [“Examining Public Safety & Justice in Native Communities”](#)
- Hearing [“S. 465 - BADGES & S. 2695 - Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement”](#)
- Roundtable [“Public Safety & Justice Resources in Native Communities”](#)
- Listening Session [“Public Safety & Justice Resources in Native Communities”](#)

## INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENTS

### *Advanced record number of water rights settlement bills*

- Ushered **9 Indian water rights settlement bills, totaling more than \$10 billion**, through Committee hearings and business meetings, to address the water rights and water security of 14 Tribes across 3 states.
  - [S. 1898 – Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023](#)
  - [S. 1987 – Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 3406 – Technical Corrections to the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, and Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act](#)
  - [S. 4442 – Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendment Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 4505 – Ohkay Owingeh Rio Chama Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 4633 – Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 4643 – Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 4705 – Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)
  - [S. 4998 – Navajo San José Stream System Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024](#)

## TRIBAL HOMELANDS

### *3 Bills Enacted into Law to Help Rebuild Tribal Homelands*

- [S.382 – Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023 \(P.L. 118-48\)](#)
- [H.R. 1240 – Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023 \(P.L. 118-180\)](#)
- [S. 3857 – Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act \(P.L. 118-199\)](#)

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### *Addressed Longstanding Tribal Transportation Funding Backlogs*

- **\$175.5 million** in new funding in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#)
  - **\$25 million** for the Rural and Tribal Infrastructure Advancement Pilot Program to improve Tribal access
  - **\$150 million** for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)

### *Funded Water and Sanitation Backlogs to Bring Clean, Safe, Reliable Drinking Water and Wastewater into More Tribal Communities*

- Over **\$1 billion** in federal funding to [build out Tribal water and sanitation infrastructure](#) through a **Schatz-led provision** in the BIL and IRA

***Funded Infrastructure Projects for the Native Hawaiian Community to Bolster Climate Resilience***

- Awarded **\$20 million** to [17 Native Hawaiian Organizations](#) for climate adaptation projects made possible by a **Schatz-authored provision in the IRA**

**ENERGY**

***Secured Historic Investment in Tribal Energy Development***

- **\$72 million** in the [IRA](#) to 21 Tribes in FY 2024 for home electrification projects through a **Schatz-authored provision in the IRA**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

***Growing Native Businesses and Investment Opportunities***

- **\$28 million** in loan principal to the Native CDFI Fund in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#)

***Secured Senate passage of Tribal leasing and rights-of-way authority legislation***

- [S. 1322 – Unlocking Tribal Lands and Opportunities for Commerce and Key Economic Developments \(UNLOCKED\) Act of 2023](#)
  - Schatz-authored bill would extend the lease period for trust and other lands to 99 years and provide Tribes with enhanced authority to grant rights-of-way on their own lands

***Funding available for programs that support cultural education for visitors in Hawaii***

- **\$1 million in new federal grant funding** available for cultural tourism, empowering the Native Hawaiian community, made possible by the *NATIVE Act*, **legislation authored by Senator Schatz**

**EDUCATION & NATIVE LANGUAGES**

***Advanced Legislation to Establish a Federal Commission to Heal from Indian Boarding School Era***

- **Passed** Senator Warren’s [S. 1723 – Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act](#) to support healing from the legacy of federal Indian Boarding Schools out of the Senate
- Held [oversight hearing on Volume 1 of the Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#)
- Senator Schatz led a bipartisan group of Senators to [speak on the Senate floor](#) on the dark history of Indian Boarding Schools and the progress being made on the *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act*

*Continuing Efforts to Revitalize Native Languages through New Laws and Annual Appropriations*

- **More than \$5.7 billion** in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) for Native education programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of the Interior
- **More than \$15 million** in the [FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(P.L. 118-42\)](#) for Native language revitalization programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Esther Martinez Immersion and Preservation & Maintenance programs)

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

*Reauthorized Tribal-Specific Child Abuse and Treatment Programs for the First Time since the 1990s*

- [Native American Child Protection Act, Public Law 118-160 \(H.R. 663\)](#)
  - Creates a path for direct, set-aside funding for Tribal-specific child abuse prevention and treatment programs by modernizing and reauthorizing the Indian Child Abuse Treatment Grant Program at the Indian Health Service and the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Program and the Indian Child Resource and Family Services Centers at the Bureau of Indian Affairs to prevent and treat child abuse

**CULTURAL PATRIMONY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

*Safeguarding Tribes' cultural patrimony from illegal possession, sale, and exportation*

- Senator Schatz co-led [bipartisan letters](#) to **71 institutions and museums** holding Native American cultural items, including human remains, urging them to expeditiously comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (**NAGPRA**)
- [In a floor speech](#), Chairman Schatz demanded institutions comply with NAGPRA and to return Native cultural remains and items

## **SUMMARY OF 2024 SCIA ACTIVITIES**

### **118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION**

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#### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- 15 official events
  - 5 business meetings (18 bills and 1 nomination)
  - 6 legislative hearings (22 bills)
  - 1 nomination hearing
  - 1 oversight hearing
  - 1 roundtable
  - 1 listening session

#### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

##### **118<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session**

- 18 bills passed out of Committee
- 16 bills passed the Senate
- 12 bills sent to the House, pending further action
- 4 bills signed into law

#### **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

##### **118<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: 1 Presidential nomination**

- Favorably referred the nomination of Patrice Kunesh to serve as the Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission to the full Senate