

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A WRITTEN PLAN FOR EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL TO PROVIDE A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION IN ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HISTORY AS PART OF THEIR REQUIRED CURRICULUM, COMMENCING WITH THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, because of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,  
2 there has been a sharp increase in discrimination against Asians  
3 in the United States; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, there is also an increased awareness of the issues  
6 that Pacific Islander Americans, especially migrants from  
7 Compacts of Free Association (COFA) nations, continue to face,  
8 especially the lack of access to health care; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the State's current K-12 school curriculum fails  
11 to adequately teach Asian American and Pacific Islander history,  
12 particularly regarding the impact of historical discrimination  
13 of the United States against Asians and Pacific Islanders, such  
14 as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese-  
15 Americans during World War II, and the displacement of and  
16 detrimental health impacts to Pacific Islanders that resulted  
17 from the nuclear testing, mining, and establishment of United  
18 States military-industrial complexes across the Melanesian,  
19 Micronesian, and Polynesian islands; and  
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21 WHEREAS, oftentimes, Asian Americans are held as the "model  
22 minority", a mythos that only serves to justify discriminatory  
23 practices against other minorities and ignores the countless  
24 sacrifices of early Asian immigrants; and  
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26 WHEREAS, there is widespread negative public perception of  
27 Pacific Islander Americans in the State, especially COFA  
28 migrants as they are wrongfully perceived as a drain on  
29 resources and continue to face discrimination in access to  
30 housing, education, and employment; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, teaching students about the contributions of Asian  
2 American and Pacific Islander communities to the economic,  
3 cultural, social, and political development of the United States  
4 could be greatly beneficial and would allow students to feel  
5 empowered and to understand their ethnic identities as well as  
6 their personal civic duty; now, therefore,

7  
8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
10 that the Department of Education is requested to convene a  
11 working group to develop a written plan for every public  
12 elementary, middle, and high school to provide a unit of  
13 instruction in Asian American and Pacific Islander history as  
14 part of each school's required curriculum, commencing with the  
15 2024-2025 school year; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
18 to consist of members invited by the Superintendent of  
19 Education; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan developed by the  
22 working group is requested to include how:

- 23  
24 (1) The Board of Education will incorporate in its  
25 curriculum a unit of instruction on the events of  
26 Asian American and Pacific Islander history, including  
27 the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders  
28 in Hawaii, contributions of Asian Americans and  
29 Pacific Islanders toward advancing civil rights from  
30 the 19th century onward, and contributions of the  
31 Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to the  
32 cultural, economic, political, and social development  
33 of the United States; and  
34  
35 (2) The Superintendent of Education will prepare and make  
36 available to all school complex areas instructional  
37 material, including but not limited to instructional  
38 material established by non-governmental sources that  
39 shall be the guidelines for development of the Asian  
40 American and Pacific Islander history education in  
41 each school; and  
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to teaching  
2 students about Asian American and Pacific Islander history, the  
3 updated curriculum is requested to include a unit of instruction  
4 about how race shapes power structures and lived experience to  
5 further teach students about their civic duty; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each school complex area is  
8 requested to determine the minimum amount of instructional time  
9 that qualifies as a unit of instruction in Asian American and  
10 Pacific Islander history; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education  
13 is requested to monitor each school complex area's compliance  
14 with the Asian American and Pacific Islander history curriculum  
15 requirements during their annual compliance visit; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education, the  
19 Superintendent of Education, and the superintendents of each  
20 complex area in the State.

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OFFERED BY:

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