
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A FILIPINO
HISTORY, CULTURE, AND IDENTITY SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, in 2020, news reports indicated that anti-Asian
2 hate crimes had increased nearly one hundred fifty percent in
3 the United States; and

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5 WHEREAS, research on the use of racist language shows that
6 language does have a profound impact on how people behave
7 towards marginalized groups; and

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9 WHEREAS, increased education and understanding of Asian
10 American history and culture and the contributions of Asian
11 Americans can reduce incidents of hostility, violence, and
12 discrimination toward Asian Americans; and

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14 WHEREAS, there is currently no mandated curriculum
15 regarding Asian American history in Hawaii schools; and

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17 WHEREAS, throughout the United States, there have been
18 recent attempts to pass legislation relating to Asian American
19 history; and

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21 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the largest Asian ethnic and non-
22 white group in Hawaii, at more than twenty-five per cent of the
23 population, and have had a long presence and cultural footprint
24 in the State; and

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26 WHEREAS, despite twenty-three per cent of Hawaii's public-
27 school students being Filipino, the largest ethnic group in the
28 Hawaii Department of Education system, there is a lack of
29 Filipino representation in the education system; and

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31 WHEREAS, Filipino educators are underrepresented in higher
32 education and K-12 education, with Filipino teachers



1 representing eight per cent of the teaching force and five per
2 cent of administration; and

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4 WHEREAS, when students are represented, they feel a
5 stronger ethnic pride and identity, and are more empowered to
6 positively contribute to their communities; and

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8 WHEREAS, research shows that when there is a family-school
9 connection, teacher-student ethnicity match, culturally and
10 linguistically responsive curriculum, and language programs
11 where students' multilingual assets are utilized, students are
12 more engaged and connected to their learning, resulting in
13 higher levels of academic performance; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2022, that the Department of Education is requested to
18 implement a social studies course for high school students to
19 learn about Filipino history, culture, and identity; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
22 requested to implement Filipino content into Department of
23 Education content performance standards; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 requested to integrate this curriculum into existing Filipino
27 language classes and other courses and curricula, including
28 language arts, math, social studies, science, and visual and
29 performing arts; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
32 requested to recruit and support Filipino teachers in teaching
33 this content; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
37 Education and Interim Superintendent of Education.

