

MAR 11 2022

S.R. NO. 115

SENATE 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
33 representing eight per cent of the teaching force and five per
34 cent of administration; and
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1 WHEREAS, when students are represented, they feel a
2 stronger ethnic pride and identity, and are more empowered to
3 positively contribute to their communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, research shows that when there is a family-school
6 connection, teacher-student ethnicity match, culturally and
7 linguistically responsive curriculum, and language programs
8 where students' multilingual assets are utilized, students are
9 more engaged and connected to their learning, resulting in
10 higher levels of academic performance; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
14 that the Department of Education is requested to implement a
15 social studies course for high school students to learn about
16 Filipino history, culture, and identity; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
19 requested to implement Filipino content into Department of
20 Education content performance standards; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
23 requested to integrate this curriculum into existing Filipino
24 language classes and other courses and curricula, including
25 language arts, math, social studies, science, and visual and
26 performing arts; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
29 requested to recruit Filipino teachers and support Filipino
30 teachers to teach this course; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaii State
34 Board of Education and Superintendent of the Hawaii State
35 Department of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

