
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP 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 education system, there is a lack of Filipino
29 representation in the education system; and

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31 WHEREAS, Filipino educators are underrepresented in higher
32 education and grades kindergarten through twelve, with Filipino



1 teachers representing eight percent of the teaching force and
2 five percent 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 Senate of the Thirty-first
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
17 that the Department of Education is requested to develop a
18 social studies course for high school students to learn about
19 Filipino history, culture, and identity; and

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

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

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
32 requested to recruit Filipino teachers and support Filipino
33 teachers to teach this course; 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 Superintendent of Education.

