

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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



1 resources and continue to face discrimination in access to
2 housing, education, and employment; and
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4 WHEREAS, teaching students about the contributions of Asian
5 American and Pacific Islander communities to the economic,
6 cultural, social, and political development of the United States
7 could be greatly beneficial and would allow students to feel
8 empowered and to understand their ethnic identities as well as
9 their personal civic duty; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Education is requested to convene a working group to develop a
15 written plan for every public elementary, middle, and high
16 school to provide a unit of instruction in Asian American and
17 Pacific Islander history as part of each school's required
18 curriculum, commencing with the 2024-2025 school year; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
21 to consist of members invited by the Superintendent of
22 Education; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan developed by the
25 working group is requested to include how:
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27 (1) The Board of Education will incorporate in its
28 curriculum a unit of instruction on the events of
29 Asian American and Pacific Islander history, including
30 the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
31 in Hawaii, contributions of Asian Americans and
32 Pacific Islanders toward advancing civil rights from
33 the 19th century onward, and contributions of the
34 Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to the
35 cultural, economic, political, and social development
36 of the United States; and
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38 (2) The Superintendent of Education will prepare and make
39 available to all school complex areas instructional
40 material, including but not limited to instructional
41 material established by non-governmental sources that
42 shall be the guidelines for development of the Asian



1 American and Pacific Islander history education in
2 each school; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to teaching
5 students about Asian American and Pacific Islander history, the
6 updated curriculum is requested to include a unit of instruction
7 about how race shapes power structures and lived experience to
8 further teach students about their civic duty; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each school complex area is
11 requested to determine the minimum amount of instructional time
12 that qualifies as a unit of instruction in Asian American and
13 Pacific Islander history; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
16 is requested to monitor each school complex area's compliance
17 with the Asian American and Pacific Islander history curriculum
18 requirements during their annual compliance visit; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education,
22 the Superintendent of Education, and the superintendents of each
23 complex area in the State.
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OFFERED BY: _____

