

JAN 18 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there has been a
2 sharp increase in discrimination against Asians in the United
3 States fueled by a pandemic that has been unreasonably linked to
4 Asians. Amid a rise in anti-Asian sentiment, the legislature
5 finds that the current K-12 school curriculum fails to
6 adequately teach Asian American history, particularly regarding
7 the impact of historical discrimination of the United States
8 against Asians such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.
9 Oftentimes, Asian Americans are held as the "model minority", a
10 mythos that only serves to justify discriminatory practices
11 against other minorities and ignores the countless sacrifices of
12 early Asian immigrants.

13 The legislature further finds that there are many benefits
14 to teaching the events of Asian American history. Teaching
15 students about the contributions of Asian American communities
16 to the economic, cultural, social, and political development of
17 the United States allows students to feel empowered and to



1 understand their ethnic identities as well as their personal
2 civic duty. The legislature also finds that in addition to
3 teaching students about Asian American history, this curriculum
4 should include a unit about how race shapes power structures and
5 lived experience to further teach students about their civic
6 duty.

7 The purpose of this Act is to require:

- 8 (1) The board of education to include in its curriculum a
9 unit of instruction studying the events of Asian
10 American history;
- 11 (2) The superintendent of education to prepare and make
12 available to all school complex areas instructional
13 material that shall be the guidelines for development
14 of the Asian American history education in each
15 school;
- 16 (3) The superintendent of education to monitor each school
17 complex area's compliance with the Asian American
18 history curriculum requirements during their annual
19 compliance visit;



1 (4) That each school complex area determines the minimum
2 amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit
3 of instruction in Asian American history; and

4 (5) Asian American history to be taught in all public
5 schools commencing with the 2023-2024 school year.

6 SECTION 2. The board of education shall include in its
7 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian
8 American history. The curriculum shall include the history of
9 Asian Americans in Hawaii; contributions of Asian Americans
10 toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward; and
11 contributions of Asian American communities to the economic,
12 cultural, social, and political development of the United
13 States.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The superintendent of education shall
15 prepare and make available to all school complex areas
16 instructional material, including but not limited to
17 instructional material established by non-governmental sources
18 that shall be the guidelines for development of the Asian
19 American history education in each school.



1 (b) The superintendent of education shall monitor each
2 school complex area's compliance with the Asian American history
3 curriculum requirements during their annual compliance visit.

4 SECTION 4. (a) Each school complex area shall determine
5 the minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a
6 unit of instruction in Asian American history.

7 (b) Commencing with the 2023-2024 school year, every
8 public elementary, middle, and high school shall include a unit
9 of instruction in Asian American history as part of their
10 required curriculum. Each school may provide this unit of
11 instruction through an online program or course.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY:  _____



S.B. NO. 138

Report Title:

Board of Education; Asian American History; Curriculum

Description:

Requires the Board of Education to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian American history. Requires the Superintendent of Education to prepare and make available to all school complex areas instructional material that shall be the guidelines for development of the Asian American history education in each school and monitor compliance. Requires that each school complex area determines the minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction in Asian American history. Requires Asian American history to be taught in each public school commencing the 2023-2024 school year.

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