

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to have my voice heard here today. My name is Tyana Musrasrik-Nanpei and I am from the COFA island state of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. I am a 2018 graduate of Eastern Oregon University's Anthropology and Sociology program and I currently reside in La Grande, Oregon.

When I had made the costly move to Oregon in 2016, I took the max credit hours nearly every term while working two jobs. Most days my schedule consisted of going to class, working a graveyard shift as a group home caretaker, and working the opening shift at a coffee shop. The money I made supplemented my scholarships and student loans that ultimately afforded me the opportunity to graduate from Eastern Oregon University magna cum laude. This meant so much to me to be the first of 29 grandchildren to hold a bachelor's degree.

My testimony today is in support of SB 553, a bill that will grant in-state tuition to COFA students in Oregon. By lowering tuition, you can give COFA students greater access to higher education giving them the opportunity to reach their career goals and ultimately strengthen Oregon's economy. As a US citizen of COFA Micronesian descent, an Oregon voter, and your constituent, I am humbly asking for your support in passing SB 553.