



Date: February 3, 2022  
To: House Education Committee  
From: Stephanie Phillips, Policy Analyst for the Urban League of Portland  
Re: Pacific Islander Student Success Plan 2022, HB 4091

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Phillips, a Policy Analysts with the Urban League of Portland and I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 4091. The Urban League of Portland is one of Oregon's oldest civil rights and social service organizations, empowering African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life. We do this by investing in stable housing; through workforce development; community health; education and well-being; for our youth, adults, and seniors. Our culturally specific programs and services, combined with our powerful advocacy and civic engagement, empowers Black communities to thrive across Oregon and SW Washington.

There is a lack of support and recognition for Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students in this state with many Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students likely experience the same issues, stereotypes, biases, punishments, harassment, and racism as other students of color. Much like African American students, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students are at risk for falling into the school-to-prison pipeline as they are disciplined at higher rates than their White counterparts; exposing students to law enforcement and the judicial system causing unfair treatment and traumatic experiences for these vulnerable students.

In Oregon, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students are experiencing unacceptable education disparities: above-average suspensions, expulsions, decreasing attendance, and staggering dropout rates. These disparities are further compounded by the COVID pandemic, severely impacting the Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian community resulting in another barrier the Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students must face. In the 2019 and 2021 sessions, bills were passed to support student success plans for African American, Latinx, Native, and LGBTQIA+ students after a statewide academic assessment was conducted and results showed disparities for these student groups.

Just like these student groups, the Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students need to have a student success plan. HB 4091 will provide success plans for Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students by building on the foundation and funding for the other student groups' success plans. Passing HB 4091 in the 2022 Legislative Session to go into effect immediately, there will not be a delay in recognizing, supporting, and funding success plans for Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.



**Urban League**  
of Portland

*Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.*

Oregon is growing, increased diversity comes with growth, and Oregon laws need to provide representation for all population demographics. HB 4091 provides inclusivity and representation to Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students. Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students in Oregon are depending on you to support them.

Respectfully,

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