

House Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of HB 4091

February 4, 2022

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron & Weber,
Representatives George, Hudson, Owens, Reardon, Ruiz,
Smith Warner, and Wright,

My name is Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon
Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. On behalf
of OCAPIA, we press upon you to pass House Bill 4091,
which creates a Student Success Plan for Oregon's Native
Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

1. OCAPIA's role is to work toward economic, social,
political, and legal equity for Oregon's Asian and Pacific
Islander population. We do this through advocacy, public
policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.

2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy
making, OCAPIA strongly supports HB 4091.

HB 4091 prompts Oregon's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, families,
communities, and community organization leaders to co-develop along with the Oregon
Department of Education, Oregon's first Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Student
Success Plan.

This legislation is crucial to the development of a plan that is culturally responsive, respected,
and co-created by communities who need this the most. This plan provides the necessary

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Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

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protections and opportunities for Oregon’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students to finally have access to equitable and just education that is culturally specific and relevant.

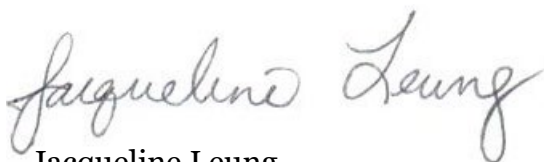
Oregon’s Pacific Islander population has grown by over 30% since the 2010 Census. However, according to the report from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, there remains a large gap between high school graduation rates, with only 77% of Oregon’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students graduating from Oregon high schools in comparison to 84% of white Oregon students¹

In the Salem Keizer school district, in which two of the top five languages spoken are Micronesian languages Chuukese and Marshallese, the Salem Keizer Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population had a graduation decrease, from 72% to 66% in the 2019-2020 academic year, in part due to the disparities associated with COVID-19.

During the 2019 and 2021 legislative sessions, student success plans were passed for African American, Latinx, Native, and LGBTQIA+ students. The same must be done for Oregon’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

With Oregon’s diverse and growing community, we urge you to support the passage of HB 4091, to ensure that Oregon’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students receive the care and support needed to be successful in their careers.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Leung
Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

¹ Higher Education Coordinating Commission. “Higher Education and Training for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Students in Oregon.”

