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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

HB 3144: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Plan
House Education Committee
February 15, 2022

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Wright, Vice-Chair Hudson and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Colt Gill and I serve as the Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 3144, which would create a student success plan for Oregon's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

Background

During the 2019 session, the Legislature enacted [House Bill \(HB\) 3427](#), which established the [Student Success Act](#) which funded the implementation of student success plans targeted at improving the experiences and outcomes of specific underserved student populations. This included the [African American/Black Student Success Plan](#), [Latino/a/x and Mesoamerican Indigenous Student Success Plan](#), as well as codifying the existing [American/Indian Alaska Native Education Plan](#). Under section 25, ODE received the authority to identify and support additional statewide equity initiatives. In 2020, the Legislature expanded the statewide equity initiatives to include the [LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan](#).

This bill directs ODE to develop an advisory committee for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders who will then assist ODE by informing the development and implementation of a plan for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander student success. This plan must also be implemented in alignment with the existing statewide student success plan initiatives.

Equity Impact

The genesis of this bill is a community-identified need for an additional statewide equity initiative to support Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students. Due to historical and current inequities, children of color, including those with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander identities, face disparities in outcomes and opportunity gaps as they move through the educational system from early learning years to post-secondary education. Without a specific student success plan and related equity initiatives to identify and address the educational debt owed to this community, students will continue to experience disproportionate results. The data indicates

the status quo is not serving our Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students well, with graduation rates under 70 percent for the class of 2021.

This plan will codify the Pacific Islander / Native Hawaiian advisory body and the Student Success Plan, acknowledging in state statute that we see these students, embrace them and recognize the asset to the state they are. This bill will provide voice to the many unique communities among the many people who identify as Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian.

Fiscal Impact

As with other student success plans, ODE will request funds to support the effort - \$2.5 million in Grant-in-Aid to be provided to community based organization and schools to demonstrate best practices tied to the student success plan as well as \$50,000 for translation and interpretation services; a position to begin work on this plan was already provided in the 2022 Legislative Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have. I urge your support of House Bill 3144 in service of our Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students.

Respectfully submitted,

Colt Gill

Director