



ANNA BRAWLEY

DISTRICT 3 | WEST ANCHORAGE

March 25, 2025

Senator Gray-Jackson and Members of the Legislature:

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 6, which would formally enact a curriculum about the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Alaska, so students across the state have the opportunity to learn about how the many cultural groups from across Asia and Pacific Islands have become part of Alaska's history and landscape, and the achievements and experiences of AAPI peoples in the United States.

In addition to my personal support for this bill, I want to highlight that my district, West Anchorage, is home to many constituents (residents, business owners, community organizations) connected to many cultures from this region of the world, including:

- West Anchorage was home to and previously the legislative district of Rep. Thelma Buchholdt, the first Filipino-American elected to a state legislature, who served from 1975 to 1983 and wrote the first official history of Filipinos in Alaska.
- Sand Lake Elementary School houses our Japanese immersion program, as well as being immediate neighbor to Chitose Park, renamed in 2024 to honor the 55-year sister city relationship with Chitose in Hokkaido, Japan.
- The district also includes the Asian American Cultural Center at Northwood Elementary, the offices of the Korean American Community of Anchorage, as well as several faith centers. West Anchorage schools are often hubs for cultural activities as well, including festivals hosted by the Japanese Consulate of Alaska.
- Like much of the city, there are a great variety of businesses owned and operated by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, from restaurants to professional services, even a local Korean newspaper!

This district is just one small slice of the rich history, cultural representation, and the many peoples whose heritage extends across the world. All Alaskans should learn their stories.

Thank you,

Anna Brawley

Assembly Member, District 3, West Anchorage
Municipality of Anchorage