

Filipino Community Inc.



ecfilcomak@outlook.com
251 S Franklin St, Juneau,
Alaska 99801

The Honorable Laddie Shaw
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol

Chair Shaw,

January 27, 2023

I strongly urge your support for HB23, which seeks to establish October as Filipino-American History Month in Alaska state statute. As a Filipino-American and President of the Filipino Community Inc., I have seen the positive impact of recognizing and celebrating culture and community in promoting understanding and success.

The Filipino community in Alaska has made significant contributions to our economy, culture, and society. Filipinos have significantly influenced the Alaskan workforce in education, health care, and information technology to name a few. Filipinos have also contributed greatly to the cultural fabric of Alaska through our culinary traditions, music, dance, language, and literature.

Celebrating Filipino history and culture has many benefits. Learning about other cultures and traditions can help break down barriers and improve communication and understanding between communities. It can also provide an important context for issues and improve government services.

Furthermore, recognizing the history and achievements of Filipino Americans in Alaska can serve as an inspiration for future generations to participate in community service and work towards a better future for all of us. I hope to see this bill passed into law so that Alaskans from all backgrounds can celebrate our common heritage and work together to build a stronger and more vibrant state.

I urge you to support HB23 so we can honor the contributions of Filipino Americans in our state and ensure that future generations will have the opportunities we have and more. It is time for our state to officially recognize Filipino Americans and celebrate their culture and heritage.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you and other members of the legislature to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edric Carrillo', written over a light blue background.

Edric Carrillo

President, Filipino Community Inc.

February 2, 2023

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

I am writing today to express my wholehearted support for House Bill 23/Senate Bill 30, which would establish October as Filipino American History Month. As a founding member of AKAPIDA, (Alaska Asian Pacific Islander and Desi Americans) a group advocating for the interests of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans in Alaska, I believe that a formal recognition of the contributions of the Filipino community in our state is long past due.

Our Filipino neighbors and friends work in all sectors of our economy, are world-renowned artists representing Alaska on the international stage, are passionate political leaders, and are integral members of our Alaskan community. As the recent election of Rep. Genevieve Mina and the public service of Rep. Thelma Buchholdt have shown, Filipino-Alaskans have a long history in our state and have served at the highest levels of our government for decades.

The history and contributions of Filipino-Alaskans are a testament to the diversity of our state, and demonstrate the aspirational goals of the American dream. HB 23/SB 30 would be a meaningful step towards formally recognizing a community that has done so much to create what we know as Alaska today.

In general, I support the formal recognition of the different communities that comprise our state and honor their contributions to Alaska. It was heartening to see the outpouring of support for Rep. Tarr's HB 357, which named a bridge in Anchorage after a member of the Korean-American community in our state.

I urge the Alaska State Legislature to push forward this bill and pass it into law as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kengo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "Nagaoka" following.

Kengo Nagaoka



February 6, 2023

Ms. Genevieve Mina
State of Alaska Legislature House District 10
Alaska State Capitol, Room 420
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Mina,

On behalf of the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition's Strengthening Cultural Unity Task Force, we are writing in support of HB0023A to establish the month of October as Filipino American History Month in Alaska.

As a active member of Ketchikan's Filipino community and 40 year resident, I have seen the value and importance of recognizing, celebrating, and honoring the contributions of Filipinos in American history. In Ketchikan, Filipino's make up approximately 10% of the population and within the state there are 30,000, the approximate size of the city of Juneau. From the early historical contributions of the hard-working cannery workers called "Alaskeros" to the individuals providing compassionate care within our health systems, Alaska's Filipino community has been supporting and contributing to the states growth, prosperity and success.

On October 15, 2022, the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition held its 2nd Annual Fil-Am Festival, and the honorable US Representative Mary Peltola was our guest speaker. During her welcome ceremony speech, she stated *"I stand here today and say with great confidence that fellow Filipino Americans helped build Alaska, and they continue to build Alaska from our hospitals to our factories, our armed forces, and to our real estate markets. To put it simply, the history of the Filipino American experience in Alaska is the history of Alaska itself, and it should never be forgotten."* This statement is a true reflection of what HB0023A will represent for our state.

Establishing October as Filipino American History Month in Alaska is long overdue. We are in full support of this house bill and hope for its success. Please feel free to reach out if you should need any other information from us.

Salamat Po!

In solidarity,

Alma Manabat Parker

Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, Strengthen Cultural Unity Task Force
Fil-Am Festival Director

David Song
151 Patterson St.
Anchorage, AK 99504

February 2, 2023

Rep. Genevieve Mina
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Mina,

I am writing today to express my wholehearted support for House Bill 23/Senate Bill 30, which would establish October as Filipino American History Month. One of the greatest strengths of Alaska is the wide diversity of people who make up our state. People from across the globe have come seeking a better life in Alaska, established vibrant communities, and contributed deeply to making our state what it is today.

The contributions of the Filipino community in Alaska are distinct even among the many communities that make up our neighborhoods, to the point where there is a term for the Filipino immigrants and their descendants who have come to Alaska – the Alaskeros. Alaskeros have been the lifeblood of Alaska’s fishing and fish processing industry, are our health care heroes, are our teachers, and as you and Rep. Thelma Buchholdt have shown, are Alaska’s leaders at the highest levels of elected office.

Filipino history is Alaskan history and American history; without the Filipino community, there would be no Alaska as we know it today. This has been recognized by institutions across Alaska for decades, and even as recently as last year, there was an exhibit at the Alaska State Museum documenting and honoring the contributions of the Alaskeros in our state. Multiple documentary films have been produced honoring Filipinos across Alaska, including a recent documentary highlighting Filipino restaurant owners from KTOO.

In summation, a formal recognition for the Filipino members of our communities that are an integral part of Alaska’s cultural, economic, and political fabric is long past due. House Bill 23 would be an important and meaningful gesture to honor our Filipino friends and neighbors for all they have done for Alaska, and I support its passage.

Thank you for all that you do for our state, Rep. Mina, and I urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass this bill as soon as possible.

Best,



David Song
Founding Member, AKAPIDA
(Alaska Asian Pacific Islander and Desi Americans)