

Dear Representative Elvi Gray-Jackson,

My name is Lucy Hansen, I am one of the Pacific Island Community Leaders and a CEO for a Non Profit Organization in Alaska since 2005. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill No 131. "To integrate AAPI languages and cultures into the Public School District in Alaska".

I want to thank Representative Elvi Gray-Jackson for the opportunity to introduce this important part of our history to the Senate State Affairs. There is an estimate of 77,366 AAPI make their home in Alaska, they move here for a better future. From 2010 - 2020 the number of eligible AAPI voters in Alaska grew by 46%. This compares to a 10% change for the statewide eligible voting population over the same period.

The growth of our AAPI residents in Alaska in 2010-2020 is 29%, growth of eligible AAPI voters 2010-2020 is 46%, and the AAPI adults who are limited english proficient is 44%. Education is important to all of us, understanding each culture, history, language is essential for teaching children and young adults to appreciate diversity.

AAPI studies must be a part of the curriculum for public schools. Adding this into the school curriculum is critical to change discriminatory perceptions and it contributes toward advancing civil rights for humanity. By shaping the teaching guidelines and resources that will underpin the efforts and play a huge part in determining the students' success.

I thank you for supporting this Bill as it is an important matter to our community and our education curriculum system. I believe that not only all students will benefit from learning AAPI language and culture but it will also reduce discriminatory perceptions through the community at large.

Thank you for your support,

Lucy Hansen

CEO/Polynesian Association of Alaska