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11 March 2024

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

My name is Edric Carrillo, President of the Filipino Community, Inc. (FCI) in Juneau. I am writing to express the FCI's strong support for Senate Bill 131, an act requiring education in the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FCI has been a non-profit organization since 1956, but Filipinos have settled in Juneau as early as 1929. We stand proudly among a growing number of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that have made this state our home.

Teaching AAPI history and culture in Alaskan classrooms helps our children grow in communities that recognize and respect diverse backgrounds and learn to embrace them. Passing this bill is urgent because it is long overdue. At its core, it only asks for inclusion: that the contributions of Asian-Americans be recognized as part of our nation's history, that the stories that already form the fabric of our societies be placed in our schoolrooms instead of allowing them to remain in the margins.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Edric Carrillo
Juneau, Alaska