

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



Testimony in Support of HB 4091

February 3, 2022

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron and I am the State Representative for House District 26 which includes a growing diverse community from Hillsboro through Wilsonville along the urban growth boundary.

The Pacific Islander community is one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in both size and diversity in the state and they face significant disparities in education. The Oregon Department of Education [reported](#) that Oregon saw a slight 2% decrease in graduation rates from last year while our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander student group saw the largest decrease of nearly 7%. During the COVID pandemic, Pacific Islanders were over 14 times more likely to get sick with COVID-19 and Asians experienced a [366% increase](#) of reported hate crimes in 2022. Many Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian students have acute needs, and it is our responsibility to make targeted investments that close opportunity gaps and ensure that all our students can thrive.

I ask for your support of the Pacific Islander Student Success Bill (HB 4091) which will build on the core foundation of (and work together with) the Student Success plans passed in 2019 and 2021 that aim to address specific educational disparities for different culturally specific student groups. We continue to recognize that Oregon's laws need to reflect the growing needs of our diverse communities with a focus in serving our historically underserved students. The Pacific Islander Student Success Plan will provide a roadmap to achieve better outcomes.

Please join me and the many legislators who have signed on to the bill in supporting HB 4091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Courtney Neron