

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

For the record, I am Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). I am writing in support of HB 3133, which will require the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) and associated Commissions to employ at least one paid intern.

The Oregon Advocacy Commission provides administrative support to four commissions: the Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA), and Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW). As co-chair of OCAPIA, our commission focuses on multiple projects throughout the year: from advocating during legislative sessions (submitting oral and written testimony), participating in May's Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Heritage month, and bringing awareness to Oregonians about the commission to encourage participation and civic engagement.

My first experience with the commission started when I was in law school. I was an unpaid extern housed under the OCBA and produced a research paper on the school-to-prison pipeline and the impact it has on youth. The experience, while invaluable, was hard work, and while I am grateful for the opportunity, having a paid position would have helped me financially. At the time, I was a single parent. In addition to the externship, I was working to earn additional income to survive.

Having paid interns at the OACO and associated commissions will ensure equity for students who qualify as interns who would apply but, for financial reasons, are

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<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

503.302.9725 

oaco.mail@oregon.gov 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 

unable to do so. Unpaid internships further increase disparities, as economic privilege often plays a role in who can and cannot afford to enroll in these opportunities.

We strongly urge you to pass HB 3313 to ensure that the OACO and associated commissions have strong candidates apply and be accepted for paid internships.

Sincerely,




Jackie Leung

Co-Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



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