

Submitter: Joselito Tanega

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5501

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a member and co-chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) but am submitting this testimony on my own behalf to express strong support for Senate Bill 5501, which appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office for biennial expenses. This bill is a critical step toward ensuring that the Advocacy Commissions have the resources they need to continue their important work in promoting equity, justice, and representation for all Oregonians.

Senate Bill 5501 (SB 5501) is designed to allocate funding to the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, which includes the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). This funding ensures operational stability and supports OCAPIA's mission to advocate for equitable policies, promote equity, and address issues affecting Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Oregon.

As someone who has witnessed firsthand the positive impact of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions, I believe their work is crucial in addressing systemic inequities and fostering a more inclusive society. For example, their initiatives have helped amplify the voices of marginalized groups, provided valuable resources for community development, and facilitated meaningful dialogue between policymakers and constituents.

By supporting SB 5501, we are investing in the future of Oregon—a future where every resident has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background. The funding allocated through this bill will enable the commissions to expand their reach, enhance their programs, and continue making a difference in the lives of countless Oregonians.

I urge the committee to pass SB 5501 and demonstrate Oregon's commitment to fostering a more equitable and inclusive society. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Cordially,

Joselito Tanega

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