



## PRESS RELEASE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2023

**Press Contact:**

Hannah Kurowski, [hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov)

### **Democrats Invest in Oregon’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Students**

*A BIPOC Caucus priority bill, House Bill 3144 will address education disparities and support NH/PI students.*

**Salem, Ore.** - Today, the Senate passed House Bill 3144, Oregon's **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Plan**, addressing the academic opportunity gap hurting Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI) students. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.

Across the state, NH/PI students in Oregon are experiencing unacceptable education disparities. The Oregon Department of Education [reports](#) that NH/PI students have the second highest dropout rates among all races in Oregon and the highest rate of chronic absenteeism.

“We know that Oregon’s cultural diversity is one of our greatest assets. This bill is not only a critical investment in education, but an acknowledgment that we see Pacific Islander students and recognize the assets they bring into our classrooms and communities,” **said Representative Hoa Nguyen** (D-East Portland & Damascus), **chief sponsor of the bill.**

The bill invests \$2.1 million dollars in the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Plan and will provide targeted interventions to improve access to educational opportunities of Oregon’s NH/PI students. This will address the disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents of NH/PI students, increase parental engagement, encourage NH/PI students to join after-school activities, and improve literacy levels of NH/PI students at the K-3 levels.

The plan joins four other [Student Success Plans](#) aimed at improving the experiences and outcomes of students from historically underserved communities. Oregon is now the first state in the country to target education resources towards NH/PI communities.

“With 12,000 students, Oregon has one of the largest Pacific Islander populations in the country. As this number grows, we must work towards an equitable educational system that is shaped by and serves our community,” **finished Nguyen.**

The bill passed 50-7 in the House and 20-4 in the Senate.

###