

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3551

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2025

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian, Native Ha-

waiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Teaching Asian Amer-  
 5 ican, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander History Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

8            (1) The United States has benefitted from the  
 9            integral role Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians,  
 10           and Pacific Islanders have played in our Nation’s  
 11           history and contributions to the world.

12           (2) The Pacific Island Territories of Guam,  
 13           American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
 14           Northern Mariana Islands and all of the Pacific Is-  
 15           lands including Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia  
 16           have unique histories that are often overlooked in

1 American history despite their immense contribu-  
2 tions to our Nation.

3 (3) The traditional American history curriculum  
4 for kindergarten through grade 12 continues to be  
5 taught from a Eurocentric point of view and ex-  
6 cludes histories of racist immigration laws relevant  
7 to policies today.

8 (4) Social studies textbooks for kindergarten  
9 through grade 12 poorly represent Asian Americans,  
10 Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, overlook  
11 the diversity within those communities, and print  
12 images of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and  
13 Pacific Islanders in stereotypical roles.

14 (5) The Federal Government, through support  
15 for educational activities of national museums estab-  
16 lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-  
17 forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction  
18 on the comprehensive history of Asian Americans,  
19 Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and assist  
20 students in their exploration of Asian American, Na-  
21 tive Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history as an in-  
22 tegral part of American history.

23 (6) The history of America's system of immi-  
24 gration is rife with racism, embedded with goals of

1 hiring workers to work for cheaper wages and labor  
2 in heinous working conditions.

3 (7) Congress has continuously passed anti-  
4 Asian laws as the result of the scapegoating of Asian  
5 immigrant laborers for economic downturns in the  
6 United States.

7 (8) The history of South Asian Americans in  
8 the United States dates back to the late 1700s.

9 (9) The history of Native Hawaiians and Pa-  
10 cific Islanders in what is now considered to be the  
11 United States predates the founding of our Nation.

12 (10) In 1993, Congress passed a joint resolu-  
13 tion that was signed into law formally apologizing  
14 for the role of the United States in the illegal over-  
15 throw of the Kingdom of Hawaii, which resulted in  
16 the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the  
17 Native Hawaiian people.

18 (11) Twelve thousand Chinese laborers worked  
19 in atrocious conditions to build the Transcontinental  
20 Railroad, many dying from harsh weather conditions  
21 and the dangers of handling explosives.

22 (12) The Page Act of 1875, the first restrictive  
23 immigration law in the United States, sought to pre-  
24 vent the entry of Asian women perceived as immoral  
25 or suspected of prostitution.

1           (13) After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882  
2           banned Chinese immigrants from immigrating to the  
3           United States, Japanese immigrants were hired.  
4           After the Japanese were banned from immigrating  
5           due to the Gentleman’s Agreement of 1907, which  
6           halted immigration from Japan, Filipino immigrants  
7           were hired under 3-year contracts.

8           (14) Filipino farm workers helped found the  
9           farm worker labor movement in the United States.

10          (15) The Immigration Act of 1917 restricted  
11          immigration to the United States by barring immi-  
12          gration from the Asia-Pacific zone.

13          (16) The Immigration Act of 1924 set a na-  
14          tional origin quota to deter immigration.

15          (17) President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Execu-  
16          tive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of  
17          more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry,  
18          two-thirds of whom were American citizens, based  
19          solely on race.

20          (18) Beginning in 1954, the United States dis-  
21          placed more than 3,000,000 refugees from Cam-  
22          bodia, Laos, and Vietnam due to covert and overt  
23          United States military operations in Southeast Asia.

1           (19) The Immigration Act of 1965 made family  
2           unification and skills-based migration the bedrock  
3           principle of immigration to the United States.

4           (20) The nuclear testing conducted by the  
5           United States on the Bikini and Enewetak Atoll of  
6           the Marshall Islands has made parts of the island  
7           nation uninhabitable and caused forced migration  
8           and health complications that still impact the com-  
9           munity today.

10          (21) The United States ratified a Compact of  
11          Free Association with the Federated States of Mi-  
12          cronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the  
13          Republic of Palau enabling citizens of these Pacific  
14          Island nations to legally migrate to the United  
15          States visa-free while the United States retains cer-  
16          tain strategic military rights over their territorial  
17          waters.

18          (22) In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the  
19          Refugee Act of 1980 helped more than 500,000  
20          Southeast Asians gain permanent resident status in  
21          the United States within the first decade of its pas-  
22          sage.

23          (23) The Pacific Islander community represents  
24          the largest concentration of any ethnic group en-  
25          listed in the United States military, as well as rep-

1       resenting the highest numbers of casualties in recent  
2       wars.

3           (24) The “model minority” myth perpetuates  
4       the stigma of Asian Americans as perpetual for-  
5       eigners, and such stereotypes are used to pit minor-  
6       ity groups against one another.

7           (25) The pattern of hate crimes and hate inci-  
8       dents directed at Asians and Asian Americans has  
9       repeated itself throughout history.

10          (26) Asian American and African American his-  
11       tories of fighting against oppression and racism are  
12       intertwined, from the Black Power Movement of the  
13       1960s that birthed the Asian American Movement to  
14       civil rights protests in present day.

15          (27) Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and  
16       Pacific Islanders and their allies continue to fight  
17       discrimination, racial prejudice, hate crimes,  
18       scapegoating, structural racism, economic inequities,  
19       and benign and overt omission of the integral role  
20       they played in the development of this Nation.

21 **SEC. 3. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**

22       (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 2231(a) of the  
23       Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
24       U.S.C. 6661(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
2 inserting “, which shall include Asian American, Na-  
3 tive Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history,” after  
4 “American history”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) by inserting “which shall include Asian  
7 American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Is-  
8 lander history,” after “American history,”; and

9 (B) by inserting “, which shall include  
10 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific  
11 Islander history” after “traditional American  
12 history”.

13 (b) PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES  
14 FOR AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—Section 2232 of  
15 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
16 U.S.C. 6662) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, which  
18 shall include Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and  
19 Pacific Islander history,” after “American history”;

20 (2) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
23 graph (A), by inserting “, which shall in-  
24 clude Asian American, Native Hawaiian,

1 and Pacific Islander history,” after “Amer-  
2 ican history”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

4 (I) by inserting “, which shall in-  
5 clude Asian American, Native Hawai-  
6 ian, and Pacific Islander history,”  
7 after “teachers of American history”;  
8 and

9 (II) by inserting “, which shall  
10 include Asian American, Native Ha-  
11 waiian, and Pacific Islander history,”  
12 after “subjects of American history”;  
13 and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
15 “, which shall include Asian American, Na-  
16 tive Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander his-  
17 tory,” after “American history”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which  
19 shall include Asian American, Native Hawaiian,  
20 and Pacific Islander history,” after “American  
21 history”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and  
23 with the Smithsonian Institution’s Asian Pacific  
24 American Center to provide programs and re-

1 sources for educators and students” after “Na-  
2 tional Parks”; and

3 (3) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
5 (A), by inserting “including Asian American,  
6 Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history”  
7 after “American history”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “,  
9 which shall include Asian American, Native Ha-  
10 waiian, and Pacific Islander history,” after  
11 “American history”; and

12 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
13 which shall include Asian American, Native Ha-  
14 waiian, and Pacific Islander history,” after  
15 “American history”.

16 (c) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2233 of the Ele-  
17 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
18 6663) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “which shall  
20 include Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pa-  
21 cific Islander history,” after “American history”;  
22 and

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
25 by inserting “which shall include Asian Amer-

1           ican, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander his-  
2           tory,” after “American history,”; and

3                   (B) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting  
4           “which shall include Asian American, Native  
5           Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history,” after  
6           “American history,”.

7           (d) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL  
8           PROGRESS.—Section 303(b)(2)(D) of the National As-  
9           sessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20  
10          U.S.C. 9622(b)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “(which  
11          shall include Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pa-  
12          cific Islander history)” after “history”.

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