

From: Levalasi Loi-On

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:18 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] ESMC: Support Pacific Islander Studies & Arab American Studies

Dear State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, President Linda Darling-Hammond and members of the State Board of Education, and members and staff of the Instruction Quality Commission at the California Department of Education,

I am attaching a [petition of 3,352 signatures in support of Pacific Islander Studies in California](#) as of September 30, 2020. The most recent draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum includes an edited version of the Pacific Islander curriculum and excludes Arab American Studies. We as the undersigned, ask the IQC to:

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- Reconvene
- the original advisory committee in the ESMC process moving forward
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- Include
- a Pacific Islander Studies lesson plan that covers the complexity and diversity of the Pacific alongside critiques of power and systems of oppression seen in the work of Epele Hau'ofa, Lisa Kahaleole Hall, and Kerri Ann Borja's UN Testimony on the Question
- of Guam
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- Communicate
- with the Pacific Islander community, ensuring that the final PI curriculum is vetted and approved by Pacific Studies educators
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- Work
- with Arab American educators and community on the development of Arab American studies curriculum, with content inclusive of Palestine
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Attached to this email are three supporting documents:

- 1.
2. First
3. you will find the signatures of all those in support of the above mentioned points to include Pacific Islander Studies and Arab American Studies in their most authentic form.
- 4.
- 5.
6. The

7. second document includes comments from the Pacific Islander community and allies who signed the online petition, which speak to the widespread support of above mentioned points.
- 8.
- 9.
10. Lastly,
11. I have included an infographic highlighting community input gathered by the Support Pacific Islander Studies Campaign.
- 12.

Thank you,
Levalasi Ane Loi-On
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SFSU Asian American & Pacific Islander
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