

**From:** Wesley hingano  
**Sent:** Monday, May 25, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** [emails redacted]  
**Cc:** Ethnic Studies  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OUSD Pacific Islander Voice

Hello Family,

My name is Wesley Hingano and I am a case manager in OUSD. More importantly I am one (if not the only) Pacific Islander employee in the district. I serve our students in the school district at Oakland High School, but my biggest job is that I stand as a bridge to the Pacific Islander community and OUSD (supporting the Tongan community through my work at Laurel United Methodist Church). I wanted to take this time to write you all to let you know I stand in solidarity with the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum as created by scholars of color from across the state.

We need more resources, curricula and support to better reflect our incredibly diverse student population in Oakland. Our Arab American, Pacific Islander and Central American student populations are significant and growing in OUSD, and they deserve to see themselves reflected in our classroom content. Our staff and other students should also learn about our history. Our history textbooks are insufficient and continue to be far too Eurocentric, and sometimes offensive or minimizing to communities of color.

As a doctoral student at SFSU I have engaged in my own personal research with former OUSD Pacific Islander students with an effort to uplift their voices and experiences. A reoccurring theme that rises from coding is the need for more representation of our Oceania people in curricula. As one former OUSD student said, "it's like we're invisible - we are not represented in staff, in textbooks, and feel like we just sometimes don't belong." We have the opportunity to bring visibility and education of our Oceania people into the classroom and by doing so we will have an opportunity to increase Pacific Islander students' sense of belonging.

Please stand up to 50 years of attacks on Ethnic Studies, and stand with students and teachers by voting YES on the ESMC resolution on May 27th!

Malo,

*Wesley Hingano*