

From: Wan, Alva

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 4:54 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Pacific Islander and Arab American Studies

Hello,

My name is Alva Wan. I am a middle school teacher at Visitacion Valley Middle School. I teach English Language Development.

I was born and raised in Guam (Guahan) before moving here to California.

I am Chinese, and I am Guamanian. It's important for me to not only see Asian American studies, but also to see my home island and fellow islanders represented in the curriculum. I have always identified more with being Guamanian than with being Chinese. The lack of PI representation in my educational experiences has made me feel like I was inferior and that my home was not important and worthy to be mentioned. I can empathize with the devastating effects our PI students and Arab American Students feel without representation in their schools' curriculum. **And when you take away those opportunities where they could learn about themselves, see themselves and their heritage, and develop strong and proud identities, that's unacceptable.**

I am advocating for:

- Reconvening the original committee of writers and experts with the inclusion of additional Pacific Islander representation.

- Passing a model curriculum (w/Ethnic Studies Principles) that includes Pacific Islander studies and Arab American content inclusive of Palestine.

Not including representation is perpetuating systemic racism.

We are in this fight together, so I urge you to help us fight against inequitable representation in our education system.

Best,

Alva Wan