

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans 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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. HIRONO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

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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 Pacific  
5 American 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 and Pacific Islanders  
10           have played in our Nation’s history and contribu-  
11           tions to the world.

12           (2) The Pacific Island Territories of Guam,  
13           American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the  
14           Northern Mariana Islands have unique histories that  
15           are often overlooked in American history despite  
16           their immense contributions to our Nation.

17           (3) The traditional American K–12 curriculum  
18           continues to be taught from a Eurocentric point of  
19           view and exclude histories of racist immigration laws  
20           relevant to policies today.

21           (4) K–12 social studies textbooks poorly rep-  
22           resent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, over-  
23           look the diversity within those communities, and  
24           print images of Asian Americans and Pacific Island-  
25           ers in stereotypical roles.

1           (5) The Federal Government, through support  
2           for educational activities of national museums estab-  
3           lished under Federal law, can assist teachers in ef-  
4           forts to incorporate historically accurate instruction  
5           on the comprehensive history of Asian Americans  
6           and Pacific Islanders and assist students in their ex-  
7           ploration of Asian Pacific American history as an in-  
8           tegral part of American history.

9           (6) The history of America's system of immi-  
10          gration is rife with racism, embedded in goals of hir-  
11          ing workers to work for cheaper wages and labor in  
12          heinous working conditions.

13          (7) Congress has continuously passed anti-  
14          Asian laws as the result of the scapegoating of Asian  
15          immigrant laborers for the United States economic  
16          downturns.

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

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

22          (10) In 1993, Congress passed a resolution that  
23          was signed into law formally apologizing for the  
24          United States role in the illegal overthrow of the  
25          Kingdom of Hawaii, which resulted in the suppres-

1 sion of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Ha-  
2 waiian people.

3 (11) Twelve thousand Chinese laborers worked  
4 in atrocious conditions to build the Transcontinental  
5 Railroad, many dying from harsh weather conditions  
6 and the dangers of handling explosives.

7 (12) The Page Act of 1875 was the United  
8 States first restrictive immigration law, which  
9 sought to prevent the entry of Asian women per-  
10 ceived as immoral or suspected of prostitution.

11 (13) After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882  
12 banned Chinese immigrants from immigrating to the  
13 United States, Japanese were hired. After the Japa-  
14 nese were banned from immigrating due to the Gen-  
15 tleman's Agreement of 1907, which halted immigra-  
16 tion from Japan, Filipinos were hired under 3-year  
17 contracts.

18 (14) Filipino farm workers helped found the  
19 farm worker labor movement.

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

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

1           (17) President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Execu-  
2           tive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of  
3           more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry,  
4           two-thirds of whom were American citizens, based  
5           solely on race.

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

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

13          (20) The United States-conducted nuclear test-  
14          ing on the Bikini and Enewetak Atoll of the Mar-  
15          shall Islands made parts of the island nation un-  
16          inhabitable and caused forced migration and health  
17          complications that still impact the community today.

18          (21) The United States ratified a Compact of  
19          Free Association with the Federated States of Mi-  
20          cronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the  
21          Republic of Palau enabling citizens of these Pacific  
22          Island nations to legally migrate to the United  
23          States visa-free while the United States retains cer-  
24          tain strategic military rights over their territorial  
25          waters.

1           (22) In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the  
2           Refugee Act of 1980 helped more than 500,000  
3           Southeast Asians gain permanent resident status in  
4           the United States within the first decade of its pas-  
5           sage.

6           (23) The Pacific Islander community represents  
7           the largest concentration of any ethnic group en-  
8           listed in the United States military, as well as rep-  
9           resenting the highest numbers of casualties in the  
10          current wars on terror.

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

15          (25) The pattern of hate crimes and hate inci-  
16          dents directed at Asians and Asian Americans has  
17          repeated itself throughout history.

18          (26) Asian-American and African-American his-  
19          tories of fighting against oppression and racism are  
20          intertwined, from the Black Power Movement of the  
21          1960s that birthed the Asian American Movement to  
22          civil rights protests today.

23          (27) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and  
24          their allies continue to fight discrimination, racial  
25          prejudice, hate crimes, scapegoating, structural rac-

1       ism, economic inequities, and benign and overt omis-  
2       sion of the integral role they played in the develop-  
3       ment of this Nation.

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

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

8           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
9       inserting “, which shall include Asian Pacific Amer-  
10      ican history,” after “American history”; and

11          (2) in paragraph (2)—

12           (A) by inserting “which shall include Asian  
13      Pacific American history,” after “American his-  
14      tory,”; and

15           (B) by inserting “, which shall include  
16      Asian Pacific American history” after “tradi-  
17      tional American history”.

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

22          (1) in subsection (a)—

23           (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which  
24      shall include Asian Pacific American history,”  
25      after “American History”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which  
2 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”  
3 after “American History”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “, which  
5 shall include Asian Pacific American history,” after  
6 “American history”;

7 (3) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
10 graph (A), by inserting “, which shall in-  
11 clude Asian Pacific American history,”  
12 after “American history”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) by inserting “, which shall in-  
15 clude Asian Pacific American his-  
16 tory,” after “teachers of American  
17 history”; and

18 (II) by inserting “, which shall  
19 include Asian Pacific American his-  
20 tory,” after “subjects of American  
21 history”; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
23 “, which shall include Asian Pacific Amer-  
24 ican history,” after “American history”;



1 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, which  
2 shall include Asian Pacific American history,”  
3 after “American history”; and

4 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and  
5 with the Smithsonian Institution’s Asian Pacific  
6 American Center to provide programs and re-  
7 sources for educators and students” after “Na-  
8 tional Parks”; and

9 (4) in subsection (f)(1)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
11 (A), by inserting “, which shall include Asian  
12 Pacific American history,” after “American his-  
13 tory”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “,  
15 which shall include Asian Pacific American his-  
16 tory,” after “American history”; and

17 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,  
18 which shall include Asian Pacific American his-  
19 tory,” after “American history”.

20 (e) NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 2233 of the Ele-  
21 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
22 6663) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “which shall  
24 include Asian Pacific American history,” after  
25 “American history”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
3 by inserting “which shall include Asian Pacific  
4 American history,” after “American history,”;  
5 and

6 (B) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting  
7 “which shall include Asian Pacific American  
8 history,” after “American history,”.

9 (d) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL  
10 PROGRESS.—Section 303(b)(2)(D) of the National As-  
11 sessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20  
12 U.S.C. 9622(b)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “(which  
13 shall include Asian Pacific American history)” after “his-  
14 tory”.