

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill 171
House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
December 10, 2023**

Antoinette Charfauros McDaniel
Board Member, Chamorro Association of the Midwest

Dear Chair Bird, Representative Lightbody, and Members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee,

Håfa Adai. My name is Antoinette Charfauros McDaniel and I am retired Chamoru educator. I write in support of House Bill 171 because although Guam's history in the U.S. traces back to 1898 (when Ohioan, President McKinley was in office), few of my fellow Ohioans are familiar with our existence and significant contributions to the Nation. Chamorus, who are U.S. Citizens, are substantially overrepresented in the U.S. Military. In turn, the U.S. Military currently occupies nearly a third of Guam's small island. This has led to a growing population of Chamorus in Dayton, home of Wright Patterson, AFB. Many proud Veterans and their families choose to retire in Ohio, spreading out to Columbus, Cincinnati, and beyond. Despite this, many Chamorus and Pacific Islanders from Hawai'i, the Marshall Islands, and Samoa, to name a few, remain invisible in mainstream institutions. HB 171 represents a key step in updating the K-12 social studies model curriculum to reflect the diverse backgrounds and histories of all Ohioans, including Chamorus and all Pacific Islanders, who are among your constituents.

As a sociologist, I know the power of education in shaping young minds. Classrooms are key sites where students of all ages formally and informally learn about their world, their friends, and communities near and far. Yet young Chamorus often share that peers are often mystified when they proudly tell them that they are from Guam: "Where is that? You mean Guatemala?" Meanwhile, changes between the 2010 and 2020 Census reveal that *the Midwest* experienced the greatest percentage growth in Chamoru and Pacific Islanders in the nation. However, many though not all, of these new Ohioans have direct connections to the military. We are represented across a range of industries including, like myself, higher education, as well as the fine arts, health care and more. Together, these factors underscore an urgent need for a representative curriculum that reflects the realities of these shifting demographics and our collective contributions to the future of Ohio.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the positive impact House Bill 171 has for the educational landscape of Ohio. As a constituent, a professor, and a mother who raised my own child in Ohio (with her father, who was born and raised in Wooster), I see this legislation as a critical step towards a more inclusive and empathetic future for all of our children. I therefore respectfully ask that you vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your time and attention.

Si Yu'us Ma'åse,
Profesót Antoinette Charfauros McDaniel