

**BILL025(21)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 39**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jan 25, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: Alohavinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARE Community Advocacy Research Education	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 25, 2023 @ 09:49 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair, Vice Chair &amp; Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Zhizi Xiong and on behalf of CARES, I testify in strong support of the bill.</p> <p>“Anti-bias” education is a term originating from the education sector utilized by teachers, educators &amp; school staff to address bias &amp; prejudice in learning environments. Anti-bias education is designed to increase a mutual understanding of differences and how to be respectful and value everyone, despite our diverse cultural backgrounds, experiences &amp; perspectives. The strategies utilized in creating anti-bias environments helps to create &amp; sustain a safe, inclusive &amp; respectful community.</p> <p>The basic tenet, or basic principle, of “anti-bias” states that bias is learned. Prejudice &amp; discrimination is a learned behavior. When diversity or differences based on race, religion, gender identify, sexual orientation, language, culture, body type, ability, socioeconomic class is not valued or respected, harmful behaviors like name-calling, bullying and social exclusion will emerge. A 2016 study published in the Review of Educational Research analyzed over 15 years of research findings that indicated that positive school environments can have a direct impact on students’ academic achievements. “Anti-bias” is not just an idealistic way of thinking. Research has proven that there are numerous benefits of creating a positive &amp; inclusive environment at school, at work and in our communities.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>Blessings, Zhizi Xiong</p>		