

House Rules Committee Members

RE: SCR14 Acknowledging the 75th anniversary of Japanese American internment during World War II and recognizing national Day of Remembrance.

My name is Sandy Tsuneyoshi and I am Sansei, a third generation American of Japanese ancestry. I am on the Board of Directors of APANO, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. I sincerely appreciate being able to submit and present testimony in favor of SCR14 for myself and on behalf of APANO. My grandparents emigrated from Japan and worked on the sugar plantations on the Big Island of Hawai'i'i where my Nisei parents were born and raised. Oregon has been my home for 22 years and with my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology have worked in the Counseling Centers of the University of Oregon and Oregon State University and with leadership and retention with students of color, especially Asian & Pacific Islanders and have also worked doing war trauma work with Korean, WWII and Vietnam veterans with PTSD

My extended family living in California were interned, however, even though Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i-i-where one would obviously conclude was more of a military necessity, my grandparents and parents were not part of mass removal, relocation, nor incarceration in concentration camps. Only a small number-1444 Japanese Americans, primarily leaders of the community were interned in Honolulu on Sand Island. The differences were due to: 1) the Japanese Americans were a significant part of the work force and were needed to continue to support the economy of Hawaii whereas on the mainland, the labor unions and agricultural land owners pushed for the removal to protect their own interests; 2)the media, press, and the community at large in Hawai'i supported their Japanese American neighbors and their immigrant parents unlike on the mainland where hate messages thrived and in Oregon wherein majority community did little to speak up against the removal, relocation, and incarceration. It wasn't as if there was no hate expressed in Hawai'i as my mother said, "you should have seen the way they looked at us" but the ugliness was minimal compared to the mainland West Coast.

Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7, 1941 and my grandmother, Shizue Fukuyama, was supposed to take the Humuula, the cattle boat on Wednesday from Kohala on the Big Island of Hawai'i to Honolulu on the island of Oahu. This was to seek medical attention for her kidney problems that were untreatable by plantation doctors. Because of the travel restrictions placed upon Japanese and Japanese Americans, she could not travel for treatment in Honolulu. I have a genetic metabolic disorder in which I form rare cysteine kidney stones, and believe that this is what grandmother Shizue suffered from. I cannot even imagine what it was like for her as she stoically endured the pain stones moving out of her kidney or blocking her kidney. Sixteen months later, she died on April 28, 1943 at the age of 48.

My uncle Kaoru Fukuyama was the oldest son of her seven children. His mother wasn't allowed by his country - America to travel for medical treatment that could have saved or lengthened her life. On October 23, 1943, six months after his mother died, Private Kaoru Fukuyama, age 24, Company D of the segregated Japanese American unit the U.S. Army, 100th Infantry Battalion was killed in action in Italy fighting for his country.

My mother shared the experience of how she learned of his death. My parents lived in downtown Honolulu where frequently soldiers would knock on doors at all hours of the night or early morning. So, late that night, there was a knock on the door and as they lived in a quonset hut she could look down the hall straight to the front door. My father went to the door and there was my Uncle Kaoru dressed in his army overcoat and he shook my father's hand. My mother went to the door and gave her brother a hug.

The next morning, she marked date on the calendar and wrote a letter to her father on the Big Island of Hawaii telling him that she believed my Uncle had died and had come to say goodbye. My grandfather told me that he was angry with my mother, as he did not believe it was true. One month later, she had a dream that she and her mother were sitting on a lotus pad praying in front of a butsudana-a Buddhist shrine. She told her neighbor that she thought she would be getting word of his death and sure enough, she received a letter from her father indicating that Uncle Kaoru had indeed died on the day she dreamed of his saying good bye or that he indeed came in person. He was the first to die from Kohala.

In 1941, more than 5,000 Japanese Americans were serving in the U.S. military. After Pearl Harbor, they were quickly classified as 4-F -unfit for military service or 4-C -enemy aliens. These Nisei, American born Japanese, held U.S. Citizenship, pledged their allegiance to the flag, wanted to serve their country and prove their loyalty. At home in America, fear, prejudice, and outright hatred was their first battle to gain the right to fight for their country. In Hawai'i, the Japanese American soldiers were placed in isolation, away from weapons and under armed guards because authorities questioned their loyalty. The 100th Infantry Battalion was activated on June 12, 1942 and was composed of more than 1400 American-born Japanese American called "Nisei". Because of the distrust, they were shipped out of Hawai'i without publicity for training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

The 100th Infantry Battalion entered combat on September 1943 in Salerno, Southern Italy. Later, the 442nd Regimental Combat team, an all-volunteer Nisei combat unit many coming from internment camps on the mainland, joined them. They fought primarily in Europe during WWII, e.g., Italy, southern France, and Germany. One of their significant missions was their rescue of the Lost Battalion, the Texas 141st Infantry who were cut off by German forces in the Vosges Mountains. The 442nd had been sent to rest after liberating Bruyeres and Biffontaine but were called back by the General to help. In the documentary, Yankee Samurai, an opinion was expressed regarding why they were sent back and the belief was that the Japanese American soldiers were "expendable". The 442nd suffered over 800 casualties to save the 211 Texas soldiers. I Company went in with 185 men; 8 walked out unhurt. K Company began with 186 men; 17 walked out. The 100th Infantry Battalion/ 442nd Regimental Combat team became the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in U.S. military warfare.

For all my growing up days, numerous times during a year we visited my Uncle Kaoru's grave at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. His grave is near Ernie Pyle, the WWII war correspondent and Ellison Onizuka the Hawai'i born astronaut who died in the Challenger. We laid flowers on several graves all in a row who were

men also from his home town of Kohala who had also died in battle. I knew my Uncle Kaoru died in Italy but it was not until this past April when I was there and googled my Uncle's name that I found more details. There appeared a news article that in October 2004 the town of Sant Angelo d' Alife dedicated a monument for the 59 American soldiers who liberated their town from the German Nazis during October 20-25, 1944. Twenty-one were from the 100th Battalion who 60 years before, fiercely battled the German forces. My uncle Kaoru's name was one of those read during the ceremony. From that time on they were called the Purple Heart Battalion because so many were injured or killed.

It is significant that though the Italian and German immigrants and their American born children were considered as enemy aliens, ONLY, Japanese immigrants and their American born children were subject to mass incarceration. They were of European/white heritage; however, being of color or of another targeted minority in this community and country was and currently is the basis for prejudice, and differential treatment. Isms, racist, supremacist, and superiorist behaviors run deep, were, and are acted out daily in our state in our schools, communities, workplaces across Oregon and the nation. One must see the similarities in today's rhetoric and action from our nation's highest offices, leaders and aspect of the community. When I have been hearing the term "Executive Order" being applied to certain groups, I have visceral reactions of dread that run thru me ---dejavu 1942.

Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and he justified his actions as national security and military necessity. During the late 19th century and early 20th century Asian immigrants, presented a threat to the American standard of living and to the racial integrity of the nation that of the WASP--White Anglo Saxon Protestant Nation. Even in the 1800's, whites/Euro Americans considered themselves robbed of their livelihood. The exclusion of Asians was in the interest of the preservation of the white/ Euro American race.

This was reflected in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's opinion expressed in April 1925 before he became president. In the Warm Springs, Georgia, Macon Telegraph Newspaper, Roosevelt in discussing American-Japanese relations stated, ... *"Let us first examine that nightmare to many Americans, the growing populations of Japanese on the Pacific slope...Anyone who has traveled in the Far East knows that the mingling of Asiatic blood with European or American blood produces, in nine cases out of ten, the most unfortunate results. In this question, that of Japanese exclusion from the United States, it is necessary only, to advance the true reason—the undesirability of mixing the blood of the two peoples...exclusion has been urged for many other reasons—their ability to work for and live on much smaller wages than Americans—their willingness to work for longer hours, driving out of native Americans from certain fruit growing or agricultural areas."*

How can it not be concluded that the deep roots of racism rather than military necessity guided President Roosevelt's signing of EO 9066, especially since he had requested and received a report in November 1941. Curtis Munson a representative of the State Department was given a charge to determine if Japanese Americans would pose a threat

to U.S. security and went to the West Coast and Hawai'i. He concluded in his report, "There will be no armed uprising of Japanese in the U.S... "for the most part, the local Japanese are loyal to the United States, or, at worst, hope that by remaining quiet they can avoid concentration camps or irresponsible mobs." Three months later, in February 1942, Roosevelt disregarded the finding of "no threat" and proceeded with EO066. Again, how can one not conclude that the mass incarceration was based on racial nationalism.

It was stated in the early days of Japanese immigration, that given the negative views about them, it would be up to succeeding generations of Japanese in America to prove themselves. I think of Daniel Inouye, former U.S. Senator from Hawai'i who was in the 442nd RCT and upon returning from Europe and traveling thru California on his way home. He attempted to get his haircut and was refused service. Dressed in his Army uniform and with visible evidence that his right arm had been blown off in battle, he was told, "we don't cut Jap hair". To the Euro American barber, Senator Inouye's losing his arm in battle for America was still not evidence of "proving himself". He refused to see Senator Inouye as an American as he was not white, was the enemy, and the perpetual outsider. Therefore, though Japanese American soldiers received medals and were honored for their actions by our government, the Japanese Americans were still considered by some Americans as outsiders and members of an inferior race that should be excluded from the country.

There is no doubt in my mind that Senator Inouye had proven himself a loyal Japanese American, however, to others exclusion continued through his career. About 50 years later, in the 1990's, Daniel Inouye as a United States Senator headed the Iran Contra Hearings that were televised nationally. At one point, Senator Ruddman stopped the proceedings because they had received so much hate mail about Senator Inouye, e.g., "what is that Jap doing up there". Senator Ruddman further reported that Senator Inouye was a decorated American war hero. As an American of Japanese Ancestry, he continued to be defiled, slandered, and treated ugly because of his being of color and deemed never an American...a real American.

Sadly, even in battle and the awarding of medals, racial discrimination was evident with the 100th Infantry Battalion, and 442nd Regimental Combat team. As stated earlier, they became the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in U.S. military warfare history. In total about 14,000 men served and in less than two years of combat, the unit earned more than 18,000 awards, including 9,486 Purple Hearts, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 21 Medals of Honor. Even though Japanese Americans served heroically during WWII, only one soldier received the highest Congressional Medal of Honor. Many of the 442nd and 100th were nominated; however, they were downgraded to Distinguished Service Crosses or Silver Stars. In 1996, a review was conducted and 20 upgrades to the Congressional Medal of Honor were made to soldiers of the 442nd and 100th. President Clinton, in 2000 when presenting the awards stated, "*Rarely has a nation been so well served by a people it has so ill-treated, they risked their lives, above and beyond the call of duty. And in so doing, they did more than defend America, in the fact of painful prejudice; they helped to define America at its best.*" Senator Inouye was one of the recipients of the upgrade. A part of the sequence of heroism, is that he had

his right arm blown off while throwing a grenade, he yelled to other soldiers to stay back, snatched the live grenade out of his blown off hand, then used it and a Thompson sub-machinegun to mow down the remaining Germans.

It would mean a lot that all of you support Oregon remembering the impact of Executive Order 9066 where justice was denied to Japanese Americans and the very brave Japanese American soldiers who showed their loyalty. We must look at Oregon's part in the treatment of Japanese Americans in our state during that time. The Tolan hearings that were held in Portland polling reactions to Executive Order 9066 resulted in there being a lack of white/Euro American public outcry and a silence of white/Euro American advocates for the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans. In addition, 70 plus years ago, let us be reminded that the then Oregon Governor Walter M. Pierce was a progressive proponent of democracy including the rights of women and workers, however, this was for white/ European Americans only. In Oregon, Anti-Asian and racially exclusive beliefs and actions were evident before, during, and after the incarceration of Japanese Americans.

At this point, I sincerely express in advance gratefulness that you will help pass SRC14, as this would be a very significant and important statement about your support and acknowledgement of the negative economic, psychological impact on Japanese Americans and their constitutional rights stripped away. I can stop here but would be remiss in not sharing with you how the basis of how and what happened 75 years ago, continues today. I implore you, however, to extend this consideration and examination of inequity and injustice that continues to occur daily in Oregon, in the schools, colleges and universities, the workplace, housing, healthcare to targeted to Asians, Pacific Islanders and other people of color, refugees, immigrants, and the LGBT community, and other targeted communities.

As a Sansei, third generation Japanese American, has my family given enough to defend and support our country: My Uncle Kaoru was killed in action, his brothers: Uncle Kwanji also served in the 442nd and Uncle Stanley was in the Air Force, my two brothers, Raynor and Randall Tsuneyoshi also served in the U.S. Army in intelligence in Germany and in Vietnam, my cousin Dean Fukuyama served in the U.S. Navy during the Gulf War, and my two nephews sons of Randall went to West Point-Tad is a major in U.S. Army Special Forces, and his brother Earl had been a captain and both were deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. My nephew, Sean Kunihiro served in the Air Force and also was deployed to Afghanistan. Though not in the military, I was in VISTA-Volunteers in Service to America in the black community for two years in Sunset, Louisiana. Have we given enough to America so that our lives as third, fourth and fifth generation Japanese Americans would be void of prejudice, ugly and racist behaviors and illegal discrimination?

Unfortunately, quite the contrary as the same racism and white nationalism that fueled Executive Order 9066 has negatively impacted my life and my children. Both my children were adopted, my daughter Sasha is from Okinawa and is Okinawan, Filipino, Spanish and my son is adopted from American Samoa and is Samoan, Chinese, German, English. Before my daughter was one year old, we experienced 3 events that prompted

me to move back to Hawai'i. All incidents were connected with Chinese restaurants in Oregon, 1) In Eugene and an elderly Euro American couple passed by, the female smiled broadly at Sasha, and I told Sasha to wave bye-bye and she sat and just stared, and the male said, "*that's a stupid kid*"...I have no idea why he said that but it is usually common courtesy that you don't make fun of other people's children, 2) we were in Corvallis, and there was only another couple sitting close to us. I walk out and return to my seat and when I sat down the male very loudly said, "*those, God damned the N----- word and the God dammed Koreans.*" I knew he was talking to us.

The last incident occurred outside of the Counseling Center at the University of Oregon when I was with a Korean adoptee whom I was helping with a discrimination case. A car with about 5 Euro American young males, drove by and started to imitate what they believed to be Asian languages...."*chong fong bong*", and made slanted eyes. We crossed to the other side of the street, and then they had turned around and were less than 2 ft. next to us...they called us you "*F...ing bitches*" and they spat out the window at us. That night I was speaking about the 50th anniversary of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat and I thought to myself....my uncle died for people like this.

I called Public Safety and gave the officer the information. When I called the next day, they had no record of my call. I complained and they finally interviewed me 2 weeks later. I was livid that racist ugly behavior toward me did not matter, that as a third generation/ Asian American and a person of color, I did not matter. This conclusion had been reinforced as I had counseled a student who had emigrated from Haiti when he was a child who had been struck by a bicyclist in Eugene, where the police were on the scene and the student transported by ambulance to the emergency room. When an Asian American attorney called the police for the report, they reported that they did not have one because they thought he was a "foreigner".

Because of this I did not want my daughter to be raised in a place where she was judged by the color of her skin and appearance and so I moved back home to Hawai'i to work with veterans with PTSD. After two years, I filed a racial discrimination suit against the Euro American Director and Euro American Medical Director and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In the year 2000, I represented myself in federal court for two days of trial and I won the case, receiving positive findings of discrimination and constructive discharge. Here I thought I had made it achieving a higher level of education and contributing to society but ugliness and racist behaviors reeled its ugly head even in the place of my birth. Generally, as a whole the Japanese culture has valued being humble and not speaking out, however, I also have believed that I am a nice person but if you continue to treat me in negative ways, my warrior spirit will emerge. Though not in war, I believe that the samurai blood of my ancestors and the same spirit that my Uncle and the 100th Battalion had to fight so heroically and give over and beyond the call of duty was with me to ensure that truth, justice, and what I believe should be the American way would prevail.

We returned to Corvallis, Oregon as we still owned a home there. It was difficult to hear my daughter begin to share the taunts from her peers"*me Chinese, me play joke, me go peepee down your throat*" or making slanted eyes up and down, saying "*Chinese,*

Japanese, wedgies." and peers making fun of her doing the hula or the Japanese food she ate in her packed lunch. When she was at Cheldelin Middle School, a Euro American WWII era veteran came to speak for Veterans Day. Sasha sadly reported that he said the word "JAP..JAP..JAP" thru out his talk and she said everyone was staring at her. I asked if anyone corrected him and she said no. When she was 4 years old is when I worked with the veterans and they loved her and she them as they could be vulnerable with her...she told me, "you have to take care of them, help them and love them" and I asked her why and she stated, "because they have black hearts." I asked what that meant and she said, "they have hearts that hurt very much". Now, I asked her what surprised her about the veteran at school and she replied, "I didn't know that veterans were racist".

In elementary school my son had played football for 3 years and called first down when playing with a Euro American boy who had not played football. The boy told him he cheated and went to the Euro American female duty, the duty returned and told my son he had to leave. She failed to ask him what happened. This differential treatment continued where he had no voice. I wrote the Principal and told him that I didn't know if they treated my son differently for a variety reasons, e.g., is it because the boy had blond hair and blue eyes and that my son had black hair and dark eyes, and that whatever it was, I believed they needed multicultural training. In a meeting with the duty in question and the Principal, the duty started the meeting in a loud angry voice with facial expression that matched, stating, "you called me a racist and I'm not a racist." I replied that I was sorry she felt that way but that was not what I said, showing her my email, and she very strongly repeated herself. I believed that the Principal should have told her to stop and I was well aware that she would not have talked to me this way if I had been a male, especially a white male, and not of color. When my son went to Middle school, I asked him how things were and he said "better" and when I asked him how so, he replied, "I think they treat me for who I am". I asked for clarification and responded that he believed what happened at Wilson and he said "I think because I was one of the only Asian Pacifics." All these incidents tore at my heart as I couldn't protect my children.

Unfortunately, my experiences working on university campuses have been similar with working with superiorist administrators, faculty and staff who continue to treat faculty and international and domestic students of color, especially graduate students in ugly and differential manner that thwart their abilities to be successful. When these students or faculty complain, they are called unprofessional and do what they can to discredit them. An Indian female student who had complained to the graduate school was told at every meeting with her major advisor, "it shouldn't have gone that far" and they eventually got her out of the program. If it is a formal complaint, the University does all in its power to protect themselves and this is more important than doing the right thing. There is a major flaw in the process that in order to rise to the level of illegal racial discrimination, one must prove intent unlike with sexual harassment cases. Unfortunately, this results in ugly differential behavior continuing. When I lived in the South, I had respect for folks as at least they were honest. I have a statue that represents some of my experiences with folks in the Pacific Northwest: there is a

sheep and in front of it is a wolf that is covered with a sheepskin. There needs to be a change in process, e.g., restorative justice where perhaps real learning and change can take place. I know that this differential treatment similarly happens in workplaces and schools in the state of Oregon as I have attempted to help people of color who have been negatively impacted,.

When I recently talked to my son about the Executive Order 9066, he replied "history is repeating itself and its scary" Yes, it is scary. We can substitute the racist rhetoric of hate at that time to what is being said about the Muslim, Mexican communities and anyone who is different and dark. In addition, white nationalism expressed by President Delano Roosevelt and others 75 to 95 years ago, continues. The fear that is being flamed about foreigners, immigrants of color and dark people, in fact, does not, and has not ever in my recollection ever applied to white/Euro American immigrants or peoples. Many of immigrants from Europe were convicted criminals who we're sent or came to escape to settle in a new land America and perhaps they should be sent back. Timothy McVeigh, a Euro American terrorist who appears to possibly of Scottish descent bombed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Was there an appeal for all Scottish people and other EuroAmericans to be feared and to be rounded up and sent back Europe. This is only applied to nonwhite people. I appeal to you in the hopes that you will be willing to act with conscience, humanness, kindness, with justice and in future bills and issues that come before you. All members of all communities need to be welcomed, accepted, cared for in our schools and universities, in our work place, in housing, etc.

As a Board member for APANO, I am particularly concerned about the Asians and Pacific Islanders in Oregon, especially because we have one of the highest numbers of refugees and immigrants. Since the recent Presidential election and the ideology and rhetoric espoused that perpetuates the belief that America is not for people of color, and belongs only to those who are white of European ancestry and anyone else is not. Xenophobia: the fear of that which is perceived as foreign or strange is on the rise. It has spurred a concomitant rise in hate crimes against the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Last week Wednesday's terrorist activity in Kansas wherein two South East Asian Indian nationals who had received their master's degrees in America were shot by a Purinton, a Euro American male who confronted them with ethnic slurs, asking about their visa and if there were staying here illegally. Purinton with a shotgun blasted and killed Kuchibhotla and injured Madasani, and Grillot a European American male who had intervened to help defend the Indian males. Purinton yelled at the pair, "*Get out of my country.*" Purinton fled attempted to hide in another bar and told people that he had killed Middle Easterners.

I also painfully recall that when I was completing my doctorate at Michigan State the auto mobile industry was challenged and they blamed everything on Japan and continuously reported in the media, e.g., autoworkers beating and destroying Japanese cars. Vincent Chin, was adopted by a Chinese American couple was about to be married in a week, In a celebration in a bar, a Euro American laid off autoworker and his stepson, told Vincent Chin," *it's because of you little m-----f-----s that we're out of work.*

They went to get a baseball bat and beat Vincent Chin to death. The prosecuting attorney did not show up and they were given a \$3,000 fine and probation. My Asian and Pacific Islander undergraduate students held a vigil, sought petitions to have the case tried as a civil rights case, and received death threats. My dear friend Mabel Nemoto who had been interned in WWII had racial epithets yelled at her and her driving a Japanese made car. The pair were later found guilty of violating the civil rights of Vincent Chin, however, on an appeal on a technicality they were found not guilty. In a civil suit, they were found guilty, however, in the end did not pay a cent to Vincent Chin's family.

During that time, I was on the Michigan State Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs. I was on a public radio program and absolutely not in an angry tone shared about these injustices, the continual negative experiences despite the internment and heroism of the Japanese Americans, and how Asian Americans contributions and heritage in America continue not to be recognized. A male called in and said, "*if you are so angry why don't you go back*". Despite what I had said, he still believed that I was not American, I responded, "I could go back to Hawai'i but that it is part of the United States"

The Committee on Wartime Relocation and Internment concluded that that it was racism, war time hysteria, and a failure of political leadership that led to the internment. Perhaps it is a fantasy but truly a dream that you as political leaders of our state of Oregon will not fail and will rise to the occasion, this is not about party lines but it is about doing the right and just thing. I very strongly feel that your leadership needs to extend passing a bill in the recognition and acknowledgement of injustice to Japanese Americans by the Oregon Legislature. The future of Oregon resides in the leadership that is shown by you our elected officials in how you invest your critical thinking, time, energies and spirits to make to decision that include intervention and prevention goals and programs that will help Oregon not be only for white/ Euro Americans but for all people of color. Intervening to address problem areas of healthcare, housing, employment, schools that impact the most vulnerable of its citizens. Please look at processes that on an everyday basis in schools, and workplaces, and in the community, allows Asian and Pacific Islanders, other people of color and other target communities to experience institutional racism, differential treatment to continue and not holding perpetrators responsible and accountable, and instituting education and learning to help our citizens to live together.

Focusing on prevention: change can only take place when one can recognize the superiorist, privilege and dominant positions we hold; include the accurate representation and contributions of people of color in history to be taught from not only a WASP perspective but from the communities themselves; increase critical thinking about colonialism, imperialism, etc. At OSU, I taught an Intercultural communication and effectiveness course that included these topics. A white/ Euro American female born and raised in Oregon, stopped me recently and told me that off all the classes she has taken that one was by far the best and most valuable. She related that it has helped her and know it will help her in her personal life and career. The demographics of our

country and Oregon are changing and you can help to facilitate our citizens to be interculturally competent and effective and better prepared to be global citizens.

In looking at the psychological literature, locus of control studies indicates there is a difference between collectivist and individualist cultures. In Euro American individualistic cultures when something goes right, individuals say *I did it* and when something goes wrong, they say *'it wasn't me'*. Collectivist cultures like Japanese Americans and other people of color when something goes right they say *'we did it'* and when something goes wrong they say *'it must be me'*. I have and you can observe this happening around you. When I was at OSU and said multi cultural competence, my Euro American colleagues would complain to my boss attacking me, saying what is she working on...she's saying I`m incompetent...or she called me a racist. Because they had negative feelings feelings they blamed me rather than looking at what was underlying their uncomfortable feelings. Similarly, the blame for the economy, etc. cannot continue to be put on people of color. Your assuming political leadership will come from realizing that there is a problem, and it is our problem, and you can exert your leadership for change.

You have a chance, to not be silent to not fail in political leadership but to be assertive in making choices that can truly make Oregon a model of a state who truly supports all citizens and change the belief that Oregon is not only for majority white citizens. As Martin Luther King Jr. stated, *'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.'*

Aloha

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