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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO  
COVID-19 AND URGING GREATER INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL, STATE,  
AND LOCAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY-WIDE  
SOLUTIONS.

1           WHEREAS, the population of the United States includes  
2 approximately twenty-three million Asian Americans and Pacific  
3 Islanders (AAPI), who comprise seven percent of the nation's  
4 population; and

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6           WHEREAS, there are approximately two million Asian  
7 American-owned businesses that generate more than  
8 \$700,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ nearly 4,500,000  
9 workers; and

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11           WHEREAS, more than two million Asian Americans and Pacific  
12 Islanders are working on the frontlines to battle the novel  
13 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in health care, law  
14 enforcement, first response services, transportation,  
15 supermarkets, and other service industries; and

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17           WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric  
18 related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese virus", "Wuhan virus",  
19 and "Kung-flu", have perpetuated anti-Asian stigmas; and

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21           WHEREAS, this increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has  
22 resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and  
23 scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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25           WHEREAS, the "Stop AAPI Hate" reporting center has  
26 collected more than two thousand eight hundred reports of  
27 incidents targeting Asian Americans in forty states, including  
28 acts of physical and verbal harassment, physical assault,



1 workplace and service discrimination, vandalism, as well as  
2 other forms of anti-Asian activity; and

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4 WHEREAS, approximately seven percent of the incidents  
5 involved elders, and incidents involving women are two and one-  
6 half times more likely to occur than incidents involving men;  
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, words matter - the incendiary language used by  
10 numerous political leaders and commentators has created  
11 conditions where Asian Americans are seen as a suspect class or  
12 as foreigners in their own country, and these conditions are  
13 exacerbated by the history of xenophobia and racism in the  
14 United States directed against persons of Asian ancestry; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
17 (CDC) recognizes that naming COVID-19 by its possible geographic  
18 location of origin or linking it to a specific ethnicity  
19 perpetuates stigmas; and

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21 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the United States Secretary  
22 of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, stated "ethnicity is  
23 not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is  
24 inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the "Chinese  
25 virus"; and

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27 WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, Director  
28 of the CDC, testified that use of the term "Chinese coronavirus"  
29 is wrong and inappropriate; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body condemns all  
34 forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and urges  
35 all public officials to condemn and denounce any and all  
36 anti-Asian sentiment in any form; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that the  
39 health and safety of all Americans, no matter their background,  
40 must be of utmost priority; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all manifestations and  
2 expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian  
3 sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance are  
4 also condemned; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all federal law enforcement  
7 officials, working with state and local officials, are urged to:

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9 (1) Expeditiously investigate and document all reports of  
10 hate crimes and incidents, as well as threats against  
11 the Asian American community in the United States;

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13 (2) Collect disaggregated data to document the  
14 characteristics and trends in incidences of hate  
15 crimes due to COVID-19;

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17 (3) Hold the perpetrators of racially motivated crimes,  
18 incidents, or threats directly accountable; and

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20 (4) Bring such perpetrators to justice; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public agencies are urged  
23 to prioritize language access and inclusivity in communication  
24 practices and combat misinformation and discrimination that put  
25 Asian Americans at risk; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
29 United States, United States Secretary of State, United States  
30 Attorney General, President and members of the United States  
31 Senate, Speaker and members of the United States House of  
32 Representatives, and each Governor and each of the presiding  
33 officers of the legislative bodies of each state of the United  
34 States of America.

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37 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 12 2021

