
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND ALL ACTS OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE, DISCRIMINATION, HATE CRIME, AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND ASIAN INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

1 WHEREAS, racism and discrimination towards individuals of
2 Asian origin based on unfounded fear have always existed in the
3 United States, manifesting in hate crimes and enactment of
4 racist laws such as:

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- 6 (1) The Chinese Massacre of 1871, in which twenty Chinese
7 men were lynched by five hundred white men in Los
8 Angeles who were provoked by "yellow peril" - fear of
9 an Asian invasion and resentment of cheap labor coming
10 from China;
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- 12 (2) The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that banned new
13 Chinese immigrants and prevented existing Chinese
14 residents from becoming U.S. citizens until 1943,
15 instigated by the same fear against individuals of
16 Chinese descent;
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- 18 (3) The internment and confiscation of property of over
19 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, due to
20 war propaganda depicting Asians as crafty and cunning,
21 despite many of their families fighting against the
22 Japanese as members of the United States armed forces;
- 23
- 24 (4) The 1982 symbolic murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese
25 American, by white automobile workers enraged by the
26 success of Japanese automobile manufacturers in the
27 United States at a time when America was losing
28 manufacturing jobs; and
- 29
- 30 (5) The revenge-motivated crimes against Hindus, Muslim,
31 and Sikhs, many of whom were South Asians, in the wake
32 of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and
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1 WHEREAS, despite the undeniable history of persistent
2 discrimination, violence, and hate crimes against Asians in the
3 United States, racism against Asians is often considered
4 nonexistent, insignificant, or justified, due to a false but
5 pervasive stereotype about the Asian community being a "model
6 minority", a myth that was created during the Civil Rights era
7 to stymie racial justice movements, which suggests a fallacy
8 that Asian Americans are more successful than other ethnic
9 minorities, and therefore, they do not experience struggle,
10 racial discrimination, violence, or hate crimes; and
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12 WHEREAS, as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
13 pandemic began to spread across the United States in early 2020,
14 prominent public figures and the media utilized politically-
15 charged, inflammatory, and xenophobic rhetoric when referring to
16 COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", "Wuhan virus", and "kung flu"
17 to push a disproved theory that COVID-19 originated in a lab in
18 China; and
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20 WHEREAS, according to a poll taken of the adult population
21 in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, approximately
22 three in ten Americans blame China or Chinese people for the
23 pandemic; and
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25 WHEREAS, anti-Asian sentiment surged and random crimes and
26 hate crimes against Asians skyrocketed, instigating violent
27 attacks against individuals of not only Chinese, but also of
28 Thai, Vietnamese, Filipino, and Japanese origin; and
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30 WHEREAS, an August 2020 report by the United Nations found
31 more than one thousand eight hundred racist incidents against
32 Asians in the United States over an eight-week period from March
33 to May 2020, and data from the New York Police Department showed
34 a one thousand nine hundred percent increase in anti-Asian hate
35 crimes in New York City in 2000; and
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37 WHEREAS, the persistent discrimination, violence, and hate
38 crimes against Asians in the United States are placing Asian
39 individuals and their families, communities, and businesses at
40 risk; and
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1 WHEREAS, advancing inclusion and belonging for people of
2 all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to the
3 safety and security of the people of the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, rooted deeply in the culture of Hawaii is the
6 "Aloha Spirit" that is codified in section 5-7.5(a), Hawaii
7 Revised Statutes, as "the coordination of mind and heart within
8 each person" that "brings each person to the self," under which
9 "each person must think and emote good feelings to others"; and
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11 WHEREAS, "Aloha" is "more than a word of greeting or
12 farewell or a salutation", but "means mutual regard and
13 affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in
14 return" and constitutes "the essence of relationships in which
15 each person is important to every other person for collective
16 existence"; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2021, that this body condemns and denounces all forms of
21 anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia,
22 intolerance, discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech
23 against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United
24 States; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body asserts the State's
27 commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and
28 compassion, in the spirit of Aloha to serve as a positive role
29 model for not only the United States but also for the people of
30 other nations, global alliances, and unions to ensure that all
31 members of the Asian community, regardless of their background,
32 spoken language, or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity
33 and equity; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county departments
36 and agencies are urged to take all appropriate measures to
37 ensure that official actions, documents, and statements,
38 including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not
39 exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, intolerance,
40 discrimination, or hate crimes against the Asian community; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
3 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Mayor of
4 the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,
5 Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, and
6 Chairpersons of the county councils of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai,
7 and Maui.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2021

