

MAR 05 2021

---

# SENATE 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:

- 5
- 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;
- 11
- 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;
- 17
- 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  
33



## S.R. NO. 48

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  
11

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  
19

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  
24

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  
29

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  
36

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  
41



# S.R. NO. 48

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  
4

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  
10

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,  
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
20 that this body condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian  
21 sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance,  
22 discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech against Asian  
23 Americans and Asian individuals in the United States; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body asserts the State's  
26 commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and  
27 compassion, in the spirit of Aloha to serve as a positive role  
28 model for not only the United States but also for the people of  
29 other nations, global alliances, and unions to ensure that all  
30 members of the Asian community, regardless of their background,  
31 spoken language, or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity  
32 and equity; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county departments  
35 and agencies are urged to take all appropriate measures to  
36 ensure that official actions, documents, and statements,  
37 including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not  
38 exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, intolerance,  
39 discrimination, or hate crimes against the Asian community; and  
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,



# S.R. NO. 48

1 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Mayor of  
2 the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,  
3 Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, and  
4 Chairpersons of the county councils of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai,  
5 and Maui.

6  
7  
8

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett E. Miskel", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.