
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS
AMONG THE PEOPLES OF OCEANIA, OF WHICH HAWAI'I IS A PART,
AND URGING GREATER COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENTS OF THESE
NATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS AND TRAINING TO
COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Oceania region in the Pacific Ocean
2 constitutes what has been described by renowned Tongan scholar
3 Epeli Hau'ofa as a "sea of islands", with interconnections of
4 history, culture, and strategic interests; and
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6 WHEREAS, some historians argue that civilizations in
7 Oceania did not consider the boundary of their islands as being
8 limited to their shorelines but rather to a perceived space in a
9 much broader sense of space that extended far across the sea and
10 sky; and
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12 WHEREAS, the diverse cultures and peoples of Oceania have
13 significant deep and historic ties with each other, such as the
14 contemporary theory that originally, Pacific Island peoples
15 migrated from Taiwan and Southeast Asia; and
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17 WHEREAS, other commonalities include an Austronesian
18 linguistic background, hundreds of years of trade across the
19 Pacific prior to western contact, and similar understandings of
20 spirituality such as the concept of mana, as well as similar
21 cultural practices such as the use and preparation of taro; and
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23 WHEREAS, the geographical and anthropological descriptions
24 of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia are western
25 categorizations of the Pacific Islands that by themselves do not
26 fully capture the complex and diverse nature of cultures in
27 Oceania; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that this body recognizes the
4 historic, cultural, and strategic connections among the peoples
5 of Oceania, of which Hawai'i is a part; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes the
8 contributions and accomplishments of the people from Pacific
9 Island nations and territories in the State of Hawai'i, and
10 condemns racial and cultural discrimination, violence, and
11 defamation against these individuals; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Governor
14 and executive departments to collaborate and exchange best
15 practices with the corresponding government officials of these
16 nations on commonly shared policy issues such as combating sea
17 level rise; strengthening ecological protection; furthering
18 natural disaster mitigation and economic development; managing
19 tourism, rural or remote access to healthcare and other
20 necessities, and agricultural production; and promoting
21 indigenous rights; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Governor to
24 implement programs and training to combat discrimination against
25 Pacific Island communities; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional
29 delegation; Governors of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of
30 the Northern Mariana Islands, Papua, and Western Papua;
31 President of the Government of New Caledonia; President of
32 French Polynesia; Prime Minister of the Cook Islands;
33 Administrator Superior and Assembly President of Wallis and
34 Futuna; Consulates General and heads of state of the Republic of
35 Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of
36 Micronesia, Commonwealth of Australia, Independent State of
37 Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Democratic Republic of Timor-
38 Leste, Republic of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Republic of Vanuatu,
39 Independent State of Samoa, Republic of Kiribati, Kingdom of
40 Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Niue, French Republic, and
41 Republic of Indonesia; Governor; Director of Labor and
42 Industrial Relations; Director of Health; Director of Public



1 Safety; Interim Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the
2 Hawaii Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on
3 Civil Rights; Chief Executive Officer of We Are Oceania;
4 Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;
5 President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures;
6 Chair of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Center for Pacific
7 Islands Studies; President of the East-West Center; President of
8 the Pacific Forum; and Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-
9 Pacific Center for Security Studies.

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