
HOUSE 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
NATIONS AND 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 among one another, such as
14 the 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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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2022, that this body recognizes the historic, cultural, and
2 strategic connections among the peoples of Oceania, of which
3 Hawai'i is a part; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes the
6 contributions and accomplishments of the people from Pacific
7 Island nations and territories in the State of Hawai'i, and
8 condemns racial and cultural discrimination, violence, and
9 defamation against these individuals; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Governor
12 and executive departments to collaborate and exchange best
13 practices with the corresponding government officials of these
14 nations on commonly shared policy issues such as combating sea
15 level rise; strengthening ecological protection; furthering
16 natural disaster mitigation and economic development; managing
17 tourism, rural or remote access to healthcare and other
18 necessities, and agricultural production; and promoting
19 indigenous rights; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Governor to
22 implement programs and training to combat discrimination against
23 Pacific Island communities; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's congressional delegation;
27 Governors of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern
28 Mariana Islands, Papua, and New Guinea; Government President of
29 New Caledonia and French Polynesia; Prime Minister of the Cook
30 Islands; Administrator Superior and Assembly President of Wallis
31 and Futuna; Consulates General and heads of state of the
32 Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated
33 States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of Australia, Independent
34 State of Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Democratic Republic of
35 Timor-Leste, Republic of Fiji, Solomon Islands, Republic of
36 Vanuatu, Independent State of Samoa, Republic of Kiribati,
37 Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of Nauru, Niue, French
38 Republic, and Republic of Indonesia; Governor; Director of Labor
39 and Industrial Relations; Director of Health; Director of Public
40 Safety; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the Hawaii
41 Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil
42 Rights; Chief Executive Officer of We Are Oceania; Pacific

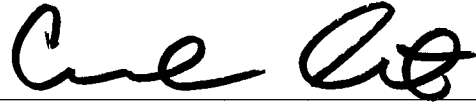


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1 Islands Forum Secretariat; Chair of the University of Hawai'i at
2 Manoa Center for Pacific Islands Studies; President of the East-
3 West Center; President of the Pacific Forum; and Director of the
4 Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

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OFFERED BY:



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