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# 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 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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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 Western Papua; President of the  
29 Government of New Caledonia; President of French Polynesia;  
30 Prime Minister of the Cook Islands; Administrator Superior and  
31 Assembly President of Wallis and Futuna; Consulates General and  
32 heads of state of the Republic of Palau, Republic of the  
33 Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth  
34 of Australia, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, New  
35 Zealand, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Republic of Fiji,  
36 Solomon Islands, Republic of Vanuatu, Independent State of  
37 Samoa, Republic of Kiribati, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic  
38 of Nauru, Niue, French Republic, and Republic of Indonesia;  
39 Governor; Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Director  
40 of Health; Director of Public Safety; Interim Superintendent of  
41 Education; Chairperson of the Hawaii Advisory Committee to the  
42 United States Commission on Civil Rights; Chief Executive



1 Officer of We Are Oceania; Secretary General of the Pacific  
2 Islands Forum Secretariat; President of the Association of  
3 Pacific Island Legislatures; Chair of the University of Hawai'i  
4 at Manoa Center for Pacific Islands Studies; President of the  
5 East-West Center; President of the Pacific Forum; and Director  
6 of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security  
7 Studies.

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