

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-first  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,



1 that this body recognizes the historic, cultural, and strategic  
2 connections among the peoples of Oceania, of which Hawai'i is a  
3 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




S.R. NO. 137

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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