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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI FOR HER UNPARALLELED DEDICATION TO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, ADVOCACY FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO SHAPING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY.

1           WHEREAS, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI, a dedicated advocate  
2 for social justice, immigrated to Hawai'i from the Philippines in  
3 1964 on an East-West Center fellowship and has since devoted her  
4 life to representing and empowering Filipino and other  
5 immigrants across the State and beyond; and

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7           WHEREAS, in 1972, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI co-founded  
8 Operation Manong, an initiative to mentor and support newly  
9 arrived Filipino immigrant students who faced harassment and  
10 discrimination in Hawai'i's public schools, helping these  
11 students achieve educational success and promoting a sense of  
12 cultural pride; and

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14           WHEREAS, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI's leadership was  
15 critical in founding FilCom CARES during the COVID-19 pandemic;  
16 this initiative provided essential health resources such as  
17 education, testing, and vaccinations for immigrant communities,  
18 addressing disparities in healthcare access and saving countless  
19 lives; and

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21           WHEREAS, as the first chairwoman of the Hawai'i State Civil  
22 Rights Commission, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI fought against  
23 workplace discrimination and systemic inequities, shaping  
24 policies that continue to protect the rights of immigrants and  
25 marginalized groups in Hawai'i; and

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27           WHEREAS, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI was appointed by  
28 President Joe Biden to serve on the President's Advisory  
29 Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific  
30 Islanders, highlighting her national impact in addressing



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1 critical issues such as anti-Asian hate, immigration reform, and  
2 economic equity and ensuring that the voices of immigrant  
3 communities were heard at the highest levels; and

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5 WHEREAS, DR. AMEFIL "AMY" AGBAYANI's selfless efforts to  
6 uplift the Filipino community through education, advocacy, and  
7 civic engagement, including her leadership efforts under the  
8 Pamantasan Council, have inspired future generations and  
9 strengthened Hawai'i's multicultural identity; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session  
13 of 2025, that this body hereby recognizes DR. AMEFIL "AMY"  
14 AGBAYANI for her unparalleled dedication to immigrant rights,  
15 advocacy for the Filipino community, and contributions to  
16 shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.

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OFFERED BY:



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