

Hawaii
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Monday, March 22, 2021

2:15 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

HCR 154 / HR 130**CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND URGING GREATER INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY-WIDE SOLUTIONS.**

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports HCR 154 / HR 130, condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and urging greater investment in federal, state, and local resources to develop and support community-wide solutions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest and promotes equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all.

Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.

Let us not forget the words of Pastor Martin Neimöller:

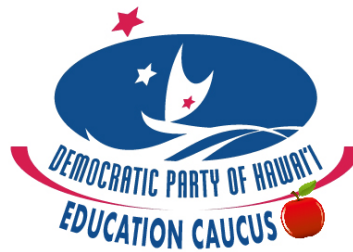
First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), including women.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 154 / HR130. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND URGING GREATER INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY-WIDE SOLUTIONS.

MARCH 22, 2021 · HOUSE JUDICIARY AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP.
MARK M. NAKASHIMA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HCR 154/HR 130, condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and urging greater investment in federal, state, and local resources to develop and support community-wide solutions.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans across the U.S. Similarly, a recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, revealed that hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent in 2020. Anti-Asian xenophobia has frequently resulted in violent acts. Just this week, an armed white male murdered eight people of Asian ancestry in Atlanta, Georgia, in an act of racial terror. We must take a stand against racial discrimination. If we don't, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We will learn very shortly that racism is a sickness unto death."

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus ·
(808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com**



HCR 154/HR 130, CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND URGING GREATER INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY-WIDE SOLUTIONS

MARCH 22, 2021 · HOUSE JUDICIARY AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP.
MARK M. NAKASHIMA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HCR 154/HR 130, condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and urging greater investment in federal, state, and local resources to develop and support community-wide solutions.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans across the U.S. Similarly, a recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, revealed that hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent in 2020. Anti-Asian xenophobia has frequently resulted in violent acts. Just this week, an armed white male murdered eight people of Asian ancestry in Atlanta, Georgia, in an act of racial terror. We must take a stand against racial discrimination. If we don't, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We will learn very shortly that racism is a sickness unto death."

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:09:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Amy Agbayani, co-chair of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). We strongly support HCR154 and respectfully urge you pass the resolutions.

I am an immigrant Filipino; researcher on Asian Americans; Emeritus UH Manoa director for student diversity; and community advocate for civil rights. I want to express my appreciation to your committee for hearing these resolutions. Your past and continuing attention to issues of discrimination, hate crimes and civil rights are critical to our state and the nation. These resolutions are timely and urgent because of the history and increase in anti-Asian attacks, harassment and discrimination.

A majority of our state is of Asian American ancestry with Filipinos as the largest sub group of Asian Americans (AA). At the national level, AA account for 6% of the US population and are the fastest growing major racial/ethnic group in the US. The largest US racial group is White (60%), followed by Hispanics (18%), Black Americans (12%), Native Americans (1%), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (< 1%) (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019). The AA category is diverse and includes 19 ethnic groups. Six groups constitute 86% of all AAs: Chinese (23%), Filipino, (19%), Indian (19%), Vietnamese (9%), Korean (9%), Japanese (7%). Asian Americans make up 28% of immigrants,.

Anti-Asian hate crimes and harassment have increased significantly in schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces during the pandemic. President Trump and other officials referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" and blamed AAs for the pandemic. AAs were more likely than any other group to report being subjected to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak: 31% reported experiencing slurs, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults, and 8% of White adults. Undeniably, in 2020 COVID-19 dominated nearly every aspect of life globally, with the US leading the world in COVID-19 deaths and infections. The pandemic impacted all US ethnic groups with disproportionate numbers of infections and deaths among communities of color. Many AA are essential health workers: 1 in 5 physicians and 1 in 11 nurses. Although only 4% of the nation's nurses are Filipino, 30% of the nurses who died in the pandemic were Filipino. Income inequality only widened during the pandemic because many AA immigrants were frontline low-income workers and small business owners.

American's history of struggles for equality and to "belong" has not been well documented or visible.. Individuals and institutions must do more to address inequality and racism facing Asian Americans. These resolutions are a clear and valuable commitment to inclusiveness, diversity and equality. I respectfully urge you to pass these resolutions.

Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:43:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports HCR 154.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 3:03:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HCR 154. Thank you!

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:21:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

It needs to be recognized that while the US white, male govt.has dominated through military and economic force to try and create a "mini" USA in our islands. In actuality, the ways of doing business, social gatherings and general paths are totally a combination of many Asian cultures. It is one of the reasons that people coming here for the first time to live are challenged, they think it will be like the "USA". COVID has affected many of our paths but the reason that so many families and places have moved forward is their deep understanding of their geneology and family support here. The issues that have arisen are mainly from people who do not understand the islands. It's not about the aloha spirit. It's about understanding our unique Hawai`i, islands in the middle of the Pacific. We can not put continental solutions on our islands. They don't work. We see that quite clearly in the DOE and by many of issues we have with water, land.

Yes, I support this.. but we don't need cute signs or gatherings with hugs, we need to dig deep as to why there is so much racism, inequity on these islands. Without digging deeper, it's like trying to put another bandaid on a gaping wound,.

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:29:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Kamikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nakashima and members of the JHA committee, I thank you for scheduling HCR No. 154 and companion HCR No. 130 for hearing. I strongly support these resolutions and wish to add just one point to the many that you will no doubt hear today. Hawaii has its own anti-Asian perpetrator, that being Kauai Police Chief Todd Raybuck, whose words and conduct sought to mock and denigrate Asians in Hawaii. As the resolutions point out, words matter, and Raybuck's words and conduct, coming from someone in such high county office, will embolden others to treat Asians in Hawaii and elsewhere with the same contempt. I respectfully ask the Representatives and Senators from Kauai to use their influence to urge Mayor Kawakami and the Kauai Police Commission to fire Raybuck without delay. For without action, what good are these resolutions? Thank you for permitting me to submit this testimony.

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 5:55:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), including women.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this resolution.

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:20:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support HCR 154.

The State of Hawaii is unique given it high percentage of Asian and Pacific Islander people. As a fourth generation Japanese American, it frightens me that there are people who are bold enough to commit violent crimes against unarmed, non-threatening Asian and Pacific Islander people.

I don't believe that remaining silent will protect other innocent and vulnerable people across the nation. Which minority group will be the next target?

People do not need to live in fear of one another. It is important to distinguish between fear of the pandemic and fear of "other minorities." There are proven public health measures to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19. Minorities are already at a disadvantage given their smaller population numbers compared to the total national population. Physical and verbal forms of violence will only incite more violence.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), including women.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this issue.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:56:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Ozawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please pardon the simple formatting of these comments as I am eager to submit them on short notice.

While I applaud our lawmakers for supporting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I would like to respectfully request that this bill's language be amended to ensure it retains the Pacific Islander phrasing through out, and does not default to simply Asian Americans.

Asian Americans enjoy the privilege of majority status in Hawaii, and while we are not free of the racism and attacks aimed at our peers on the U.S. mainland, there are others in the AAPI community that still, disgracefully, suffer from persistent, overt, and often dangerous discrimination, abuse, and attacks. Indeed, these threats are effectively codified into flawed and fractured federal and local policies and practices.

The term Pacific Islanders is a geographic and [ethnic](#)/racial term to describe the inhabitants and diaspora of any of the three major sub-regions of [Oceania](#) ([Micronesia](#), [Melanesia](#), and [Polynesia](#)). And in Hawaii, it is our most recent group of immigrants, Micronesians, that bear the brunt of "local" discrimination.

Please take this national moment of reckoning to bring relief to the Pacific Islanders who are caught in limbo, paying taxes without benefits, attacked for exploiting government benefits from which they are actually deprived, and blamed for every societal ill without the social safety net others enjoy for the same problems.

Respectfully,

Ryan Ozawa

HCR-154

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:47:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/22/2021 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Lynn Dickerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We all need to have a venue for effectively expressing rejection of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination or hate crimes against not just API but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color including women.