



SCR 66/SR 48, CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND ALL ACTS OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE, DISCRIMINATION, HATE CRIME, AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND ASIAN INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES

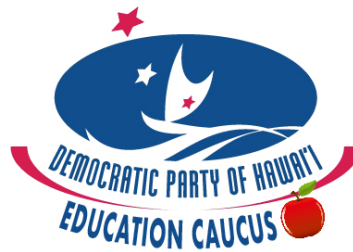
MARCH 18, 2021 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SCR 66/SR 48, condemning and denouncing all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against Asian-Americans and Asian individuals in the United States.

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



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MARCH 18, 2021 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SCR 66/SR 48, condemning and denouncing all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against Asian-Americans and Asian individuals in the United States.

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

Kris Coffield, Chair · David Negaard, Vice Chair · Jun Shin, Secretary · Amber Adjuja, Treasurer · Amy Perruso, Non-Male SCC Representative · Justin Hughey, Non-Female SCC Representative

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 18, 2021 at 9:15am

By
Doris Ching
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

RE: SR 48 CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND ALL ACTS OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE, DISCRIMINATION, HATE CRIME, AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND ASIAN INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Members of the Committee: I am testifying as a private citizen in strong support of Senate Resolution 48, as well as Senate Concurrent Resolution 66, which condemn and denounce Anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States. In June 2020, Dr. Amy Agbayani and I conducted a survey Re Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). The survey respondents included Senator Mazie Hirono who stated, "Reports of violence against Asian Americans nearly tripled – people were spit on, punched, and even stabbed . . ." New York Congresswoman Grace Meng reported, "Since January 2020, we have seen another pandemic—that of hate and injustice against Asian American communities—fueled by misinformation and scapegoating against Asian Americans for the spread of COVID-19." Congresswoman Meng's resolution condemning anti-Asian sentiment was endorsed by over 500 organizations across the nation.

The recent surge of aggressive anti-Asian bullying and racial assaults across the continent in times of the pandemic is disconcerting and especially troubling that unrelenting attacks are escalating fear among Asian Americans in areas of smaller Asian American populations and scarce advocacy in states other than Hawai'i. A Southeast Asian American higher education professional who responded to the survey stated, "I am fearful for the safety of my family and myself. I witness stares and brace for potential altercations in public spaces. I fear for my Chinese American partner who sometimes leaves home unaccompanied. I don't believe this fear will subside soon or ever."

We concur with our survey respondents' call to address racism, including anti-Asian racism. We also believe Asian Americans must be strong to protest racism in solidarity with other racial/ethnic groups. With the surge of racial violence against Asian Americans, we see an urgency for Asian Americans to come together and join forces in unity to support and empower Asian Americans across all regions of the nation. Understanding the power of strength in numbers, an internally strong and united Asian

American community can create a powerful force for equity and justice for all racial/ethnic groups.

I thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for your insightful and compassionate commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and equality for Asian Americans. SR 48 and SCR 66 deserve strong support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SR 48.

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:27:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is COMMUNIST Propaganda anyone with this is an Enemy of America!!!

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:04:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I hereby support this bill with a request to add public education on the matter.

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:42:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support SR48. Thank you for making this important statement and condemning anti-Asian discrimination in all forms.

Thank you,

Dina Shek

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:39:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this Senate resolution condemning and denouncing all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States.

While the Aloha spirit guides our state in how we treat and respect each other, acts of racism in Hawaii and across the nation are on the rise and we must collectively reject these acts and behaviors. The adoption of this resolution would send a strong message to stand against such hateful and unacceptable acts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:33:37 AM

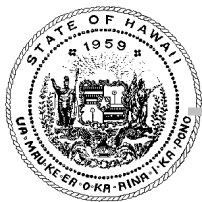
Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Catherine Chen and I am an immigration attorney at the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i. I support this resolution. It makes an important statement reaffirming our values during this difficult time.

LATE



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 18, 2021
9:15 a.m.
via Videoconference

To: Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.C.R. No. 66 / S.R. No. 48

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.C.R. No. 66 and S.R. No. 48 condemn and denounce anti-Asian sentiment, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, and hate crimes and hate speech against Asian Americans and other Asians in the United States.

In the wake of the horrific mass shooting in Georgia on Tuesday, March 16, in which six of eight who were killed were Asian women, and an escalating spate of anti-Asian hate speech and hate violence attacks on Asians nationwide over the past year, we share in the sense of loss, sadness and mourning for the victims of these senseless acts, join the broader civil rights community in outrage over the toll that racism continues to rip from the lives of communities of color, and call for justice and protection from continuing racist attacks. It has to stop.

While much has been made of the spike in incidents of anti-Asian harassment and violent attacks on

Asians attributed to the escalation of anti-Asian xenophobia and scapegoating during the COVID-19 pandemic, these are not an aberration, but consistent with anti-Asian racism that has been an integral element of American history, society, politics, and culture going back to the 19th century.

Our History of Anti-Asian Racism

The history of racism and discrimination against Asian Pacific Islanders in America is well documented – including immigration policy based on racial quotas, the Chinese Exclusion Act and Gentlemen’s Agreement (barring Japanese immigration), bar to naturalization for Asian immigrants (until after WWII), portrayal as the “Yellow Peril,” alien land laws, contract labor (a form of indentured servitude), Japanese American internment, the broken promise of U.S. citizenship for Filipino veterans who served under U.S. command during WWII, anti-miscegenation laws, and selective enforcement of race-neutral laws. Against this backdrop, Asian Pacific Islander Americans fought back against discrimination and exclusion – the Chinese took seventeen cases to the United States Supreme Court between 1881 and 1896. Some of these established important civil rights precedents.

The Vincent Chin Case – Lessons for Us Four Decades Later

On June 19, 1982, a 27 year old Chinese man was beaten to death in Detroit after an altercation in a strip bar, where he was celebrating his bachelor party a week before his wedding. Vincent Chin was a second generation Chinese American. His attackers were two white men, Ronald Ebens, a Chrysler plant superintendent and his stepson Michael Nitz, a laid-off autoworker. Ebens used racial epithets “Chink” and “Nip” and said, “It’s because of motherf***ers like you that we’re out of work.” A scuffle ensued and everyone was thrown out of the bar.

Ebens and Nitz paid a third man to help them “get the Chinese.” They found him in front of a crowded McDonald’s. Nitz held Chin down while his stepfather swung his Louisville Slugger baseball bat, hitting Vincent Chin’s head four times. Vincent Chin died four days later.

In March 1993, Ebens and Nitz plead guilty and no contest to beating Vincent Chin to death, and were sentenced to three years probation. The Chinese community in Detroit and then APA communities

nationwide were outraged. They organized and demanded justice for Vincent Chin, eventually convincing the Department of Justice to prosecute Ebens and Nitz for violating Vincent Chin's civil rights. Ebens was convicted and sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment, but that conviction was reversed on appeal. On retrial, Ebens was acquitted. Neither Ebens nor Nitz served a day in prison for admittedly killing Vincent Chin.

Now, in 2021, Asian Pacific Islander Americans are still being targeted for racial harassment and violence. At first it was labeled as particularly despicable because the elderly were being targeted, but attackers have targeted women and men of all ages all across the nation. *No one should feel unsafe in their own communities* – this is not just an issue for Asian Pacific Islander Americans. It is not enough to mourn or to be outraged. We have to confront racism and work toward reconciliation with and for those who have been and continue to be harmed. Only then can we begin to heal.

Thank you for your leadership and taking these important first steps on what will be both an urgent and long journey.

LATE

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:12:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Radiant Cordero	Testifying for Councilmember Radiant Cordero, City and County of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of SR48.

LATE

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:22:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong Democrat and someone who has fought for civil rights since the 60s, it pains me to see all forms of hate turning so violently against Asian Americans in the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Act and numerous other legislation sought to deny immigrants and people of color access to America and rights of citizenship. The violence, however, has never ceased. But now it must cease. It's time to stop all acts of racism and intolerance in our nation if we are to become an America "of, by, and for the People."

LATE

SR-48

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:33:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this testimony as a private citizen in support of SCR66/SR48, which condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States. The recent spike in hate crimes against Asian Americans across the country has been disheartening and unbelievable, yet is a harsh reality so many face and experience on a daily basis. These lived experiences are not new, but have been heightened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in anti-Asian sentiment has resulted in violent crimes against many in the Asian community. I believe we here in Hawai'i, are fortunate to be surrounded by those who show and share the Aloha Spirit to one another, but this is not the case for those who deal with the pain, suffering, and traumatic experiences in the continental United States. This resolution is important not just to condemn these heinous acts against Asian Americans, but to show that we stand with those who have been negatively impacted and will do what we can to support our fellow neighbors in the continental United States. I humbly ask for your support in passing SCR66/SR48 and thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.