
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND
COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

1 WHEREAS, during the chaos of World War I between the years
2 1915 and 1923, approximately 1,500,000 Armenian men, women, and
3 children living within the Ottoman Empire's borders were killed
4 in a brutal genocide; and

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6 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were forced to
7 flee to foreign countries after being stripped of their
8 possessions, national identities, and homeland; and

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10 WHEREAS, documented as the first instance of genocide in
11 the 20th century, the Armenian genocide remains unacknowledged
12 by the Republic of Turkey to this day; and

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14 WHEREAS, even though over 90 years have passed since these
15 mass killings took place, present-day atrocities continue to
16 resonate throughout the world; and

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18 WHEREAS, it is every person's responsibility to recognize
19 the brutal slayings of so many innocents, remember their
20 suffering, and vow to help prevent future occurrences of
21 genocide; and

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23 WHEREAS, Armenia's ties to Hawaii started in the 1920s with
24 the gifted painter Arman T. Manookian, a genocide survivor, who
25 lived in Hawaii for almost six years before his tragic death in
26 1931, and who became known as Hawaii's Van Gogh; and

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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a growing Armenian-American community
29 that is involved in all aspects of public life, including
30 business, education, and government; and

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1 WHEREAS, each year, Armenians throughout the world honor
2 those who perished in the first genocide of the 20th century,
3 and all the people of the world should join in recognizing and
4 commemorating the Armenian genocide to ensure that this ugly
5 testament to man's inhumanity to man is never forgotten; now,
6 therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby
11 declares April 24 as a day of remembrance in recognition and
12 commemoration of the Armenian genocide; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature joins with
15 Hawaii's Armenian-American community and all Armenians worldwide
16 in recognizing and honoring those who were killed and persecuted
17 during the Armenian genocide, and urging people throughout the
18 world to never forget these horrific crimes against humanity;
19 and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, who in
23 turn is requested to transmit copies to the Executive Director
24 of the Armenian National Committee of America and Armenian
25 National Committee of Hawaii.
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