

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19; URGING GREATER INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY-WIDE SOLUTIONS; AND REQUESTING THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO IDENTIFY AND ANALYZE INCIDENTS BASED ON ANTI-ASIAN AND ANTI-PACIFIC ISLANDER SENTIMENT AND DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBERS OF HOMICIDES OF ASIAN-AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the population of the United States includes  
2 approximately twenty-three million Asian Americans and Pacific  
3 Islanders (AAPI), who comprise seven percent of the nation's  
4 population; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, there are approximately two million Asian  
7 American-owned businesses that generate more than  
8 \$700,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ nearly 4,500,000  
9 workers; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, more than two million Asian Americans and Pacific  
12 Islanders are working on the frontlines to battle the novel  
13 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in health care, law  
14 enforcement, first response services, transportation,  
15 supermarkets, and other service industries; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric  
18 related to COVID-19, such as the "Chinese virus", "Wuhan virus",  
19 and "Kung-flu", have perpetuated anti-Asian stigmas; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, this increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has  
22 resulted in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and  
23 scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the "Stop AAPI Hate" reporting center has  
26 collected more than two thousand eight hundred reports of



1 incidents targeting Asian Americans in forty states, including  
2 acts of physical and verbal harassment, physical assault,  
3 workplace and service discrimination, vandalism, as well as  
4 other forms of anti-Asian activity; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, approximately seven percent of the incidents  
7 involved elders, and incidents involving women are two and one-  
8 half times more likely to occur than incidents involving men;  
9 and  
10

11 WHEREAS, words matter - the incendiary language used by  
12 numerous political leaders and commentators has created  
13 conditions where Asian Americans are seen as a suspect class or  
14 as foreigners in their own country, and these conditions are  
15 exacerbated by the history of xenophobia and racism in the  
16 United States directed against persons of Asian ancestry; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
19 (CDC) recognizes that naming COVID-19 by its possible geographic  
20 location of origin or linking it to a specific ethnicity  
21 perpetuates stigmas; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the United States Secretary  
24 of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, stated "ethnicity is  
25 not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is  
26 inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the "Chinese  
27 virus"; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, Director  
30 of the CDC, testified that use of the term "Chinese coronavirus"  
31 is wrong and inappropriate; now, therefore,  
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
35 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body condemns all  
36 forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19 and urges  
37 all public officials to condemn and denounce any and all  
38 anti-Asian sentiment in any form; and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that the  
41 health and safety of all Americans, no matter their background,  
42 must be of utmost priority; and  
43



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all manifestations and  
2 expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian  
3 sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance are  
4 also condemned; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all federal law enforcement  
7 officials, working with state and local officials, are urged to:

- 8  
9 (1) Expeditiously investigate and document all reports of  
10 hate crimes and incidents, as well as threats against  
11 the Asian American community in the United States;  
12  
13 (2) Collect disaggregated data to document the  
14 characteristics and trends in incidences of hate  
15 crimes due to COVID-19;  
16  
17 (3) Hold the perpetrators of racially motivated crimes,  
18 incidents, or threats directly accountable; and  
19  
20 (4) Bring such perpetrators to justice; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Rights Division of  
23 the United States Department of Justice, which enforces federal  
24 statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color,  
25 national origin, citizenship status, and other bases, is  
26 requested to:

- 27  
28 (1) Identify and analyze incidents against Asians, Asian-  
29 Americans, and Pacific Islanders, based on anti-Asian  
30 and anti-Pacific Islander sentiment that have occurred  
31 in Hawaii since March 2020, including acts of racism,  
32 discrimination, hate crimes, hate speech, and  
33 homicides, and provide comparative information from  
34 other jurisdictions;  
35  
36 (2) Investigate the disproportionate number of homicides  
37 of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders by law  
38 enforcement; and  
39  
40 (3) Inform the Legislature of the Division's findings at  
41 the earliest opportunity; and  
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States



1 Attorney General, United States Attorney assigned to Hawaii,  
2 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and Chairperson of  
3 the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

