

MAR 05 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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.

1           WHEREAS, racism and discrimination towards individuals of  
2 Asian origin based on unfounded fear have always existed in the  
3 United States, manifesting in hate crimes and enactment of  
4 racist laws such as:

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- 6           (1) The Chinese Massacre of 1871, in which twenty Chinese  
7 men were lynched by five hundred white men in Los  
8 Angeles who were provoked by "yellow peril" - fear of  
9 an Asian invasion and resentment of cheap labor coming  
10 from China;
- 11
- 12           (2) The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that banned new  
13 Chinese immigrants and prevented existing Chinese  
14 residents from becoming U.S. citizens until 1943,  
15 instigated by the same fear against individuals of  
16 Chinese descent;
- 17
- 18           (3) The internment and confiscation of property of over  
19 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, due to  
20 war propoganda depicting Asians as crafty and cunning,  
21 despite many of their families fighting against the  
22 Japanese as members of the United States armed forces;
- 23
- 24           (4) The 1982 symbolic murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese  
25 American, by white automobile workers enraged by the  
26 success of Japanese automobile manufacturers in the  
27 United States at a time when America was losing  
28 manufacturing jobs; and  
29



1 (5) The revenge-motivated crimes against Hindus, Muslim,  
2 and Sikhs, many of whom were South Asians, in the wake  
3 of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, despite the undeniable history of persistent  
6 discrimination, violence, and hate crimes against Asians in the  
7 United States, racism against Asians is often considered  
8 nonexistent, insignificant, or justified, due to a false but  
9 pervasive stereotype about the Asian community being a "model  
10 minority", a myth that was created during the Civil Rights era  
11 to stymie racial justice movements, which suggests a fallacy  
12 that Asian Americans are more successful than other ethnic  
13 minorities, and therefore, they do not experience struggle,  
14 racial discrimination, violence, or hate crimes; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
17 pandemic began to spread across the United States in early 2020,  
18 prominent public figures and the media utilized politically-  
19 charged, inflammatory, and xenophobic rhetoric when referring to  
20 COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", "Wuhan virus", and "kung flu"  
21 to push a disproved theory that COVID-19 originated in a lab in  
22 China; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, according to a poll taken of the adult population  
25 in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, approximately  
26 three in ten Americans blame China or Chinese people for the  
27 pandemic; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, anti-Asian sentiment surged and random crimes and  
30 hate crimes against Asians skyrocketed, instigating violent  
31 attacks against individuals of not only Chinese, but also of  
32 Thai, Vietnamese, Filipino, and Japanese origin; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, an August 2020 report by the United Nations found  
35 more than one thousand eight hundred racist incidents against  
36 Asians in the United States over an eight-week period from March  
37 to May 2020, and data from the New York Police Department showed  
38 a one thousand nine hundred percent increase in anti-Asian hate  
39 crimes in New York City in 2000; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, the persistent discrimination, violence, and hate  
42 crimes against Asians in the United States are placing Asian



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1 individuals and their families, communities, and businesses at  
2 risk; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, advancing inclusion and belonging for people of  
5 all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to the  
6 safety and security of the people of the United States; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, rooted deeply in the culture of Hawaii is the  
9 "Aloha Spirit" that is codified in section 5-7.5(a), Hawaii  
10 Revised Statutes, as "the coordination of mind and heart within  
11 each person" that "brings each person to the self," under which  
12 "each person must think and emote good feelings to others"; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, "Aloha" is "more than a word of greeting or  
15 farewell or a salutation", but "means mutual regard and  
16 affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in  
17 return" and constitutes "the essence of relationships in which  
18 each person is important to every other person for collective  
19 existence"; now, therefore,

20  
21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that this body condemns and  
24 denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of  
25 racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crimes,  
26 and hate speech against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in  
27 the United States; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body asserts the State's  
30 commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and  
31 compassion, in the spirit of Aloha to serve as a positive role  
32 model for not only the United States but also for the people of  
33 other nations, global alliances, and unions to ensure that all  
34 members of the Asian community, regardless of their background,  
35 spoken language, or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity  
36 and equity; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county departments  
39 and agencies are urged to take all appropriate measures to  
40 ensure that official actions, documents, and statements,  
41 including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not



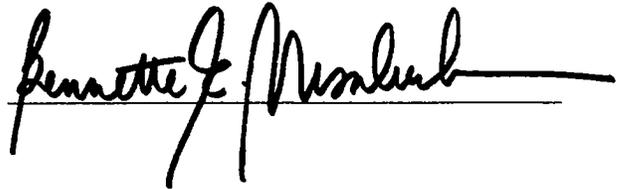
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1 exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, intolerance,  
2 discrimination, or hate crimes against the Asian community; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
6 United States, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
7 Governor, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and  
8 County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the  
9 County of Maui, and Chairpersons of the county councils of  
10 Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui.

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12  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett J. Nishikubo", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and extends to the right of the line.