

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

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.

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

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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
27 incidents targeting Asian Americans in forty states, including
28 acts of physical and verbal harassment, physical assault,
29 workplace and service discrimination, vandalism, as well as
30 other forms of anti-Asian activity; and



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1 WHEREAS, approximately seven percent of the incidents
2 involved elders, and incidents involving women are two and one-
3 half times more likely to occur than incidents involving men;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, words matter - the incendiary language used by
7 numerous political leaders and commentators has created
8 conditions where Asian Americans are seen as a suspect class or
9 as foreigners in their own country, and these conditions are
10 exacerbated by the history of xenophobia and racism in the
11 United States directed against persons of Asian ancestry; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
14 (CDC) recognizes that naming COVID-19 by its possible geographic
15 location of origin or linking it to a specific ethnicity
16 perpetuates stigmas; and

17
18 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the United States Secretary
19 of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, stated "ethnicity is
20 not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is
21 inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the "Chinese
22 virus"; and

23
24 WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, Director
25 of the CDC, testified that use of the term "Chinese coronavirus"
26 is wrong and inappropriate; now, therefore,

27
28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
30 that this body condemns all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as
31 related to COVID-19 and urges all public officials to condemn
32 and denounce any and all anti-Asian sentiment in any form; and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that the
35 health and safety of all Americans, no matter their background,
36 must be of utmost priority; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all manifestations and
39 expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian
40 sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious intolerance are
41 also condemned; and



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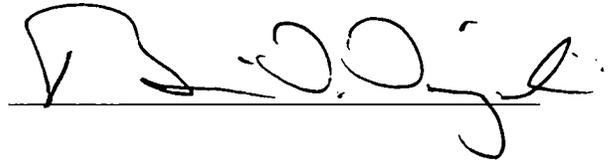
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all federal law enforcement
2 officials, working with state and local officials, are urged to:

- 3
- 4 (1) Expeditiously investigate and document all reports of
5 hate crimes and incidents, as well as threats against
6 the Asian American community in the United States;
7
 - 8 (2) Collect disaggregated data to document the
9 characteristics and trends in incidences of hate
10 crimes due to COVID-19;
11
 - 12 (3) Hold the perpetrators of racially motivated crimes,
13 incidents, or threats directly accountable; and
14
 - 15 (4) Bring such perpetrators to justice; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public agencies are urged
18 to prioritize language access and inclusivity in communication
19 practices and combat misinformation and discrimination that put
20 Asian Americans at risk; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
24 United States Secretary of State, United States Attorney
25 General, President and members of the United States Senate,
26 Speaker and members of the United States House of
27 Representatives, and each Governor and each of the presiding
28 officers of the legislative bodies of each state of the United
29 States of America.
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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. O. Ojeda", is written over a horizontal line.

