
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 AND REQUESTING THE HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ANALYZE AND REPORT ON ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND ACTS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, racism and discrimination towards individuals of
2 Asian origin based on unfounded fear have existed for many years
3 in the United States, manifesting in hate crimes and enactment
4 of 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;

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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;

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18 (3) The internment and confiscation of property of over
19 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, due to
20 war propaganda 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, in Detroit, Michigan, by white automobile
26 workers enraged by the success of Japanese automobile
27 manufacturers in the United States at a time when
28 America was losing 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
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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
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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 an unproven theory that COVID-19 originated in a lab in
22 China; and
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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 hold China or Chinese people responsible
27 for the pandemic; and
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29 WHEREAS, since the outbreak of COVID-19, anti-Asian
30 sentiment surged and random crimes and hate crimes against
31 Asians skyrocketed, instigating violent attacks against
32 individuals of not only Chinese, but also of Thai, Vietnamese,
33 Filipino, Korean, Japanese, and other Asian origins; and
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35 WHEREAS, an August 2020 report by the United Nations found
36 more than one thousand eight hundred racist incidents against
37 Asians in the United States over an eight-week period from March
38 to May 2020, and data from the New York Police Department showed
39 a one thousand nine hundred percent increase in anti-Asian hate
40 crimes in New York City in 2000; and
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1 WHEREAS, recent local and national incidents demonstrate
 2 continued anti-Asian sentiment including the Kaua'i Police Chief
 3 who was found to have created a hostile work environment for
 4 making remarks that mocked Asians; the killing of six women of
 5 Asian descent at their workplaces in Atlanta, Georgia; and
 6 brutal unprovoked attacks on elderly Asian-Americans in
 7 California; and

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 9 WHEREAS, the persistent discrimination, violence, and hate
 10 crimes against Asians in the United States are placing Asian
 11 individuals and their families, communities, and businesses at
 12 risk; and

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 14 WHEREAS, advancing inclusion and belonging for people of
 15 all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to the
 16 safety and security of the people of the United States; and

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

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 24 WHEREAS, "Aloha" is "more than a word of greeting or
 25 farewell or a salutation", but means "mutual regard and
 26 affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in
 27 return" and constitutes "the essence of relationships in which
 28 each person is important to every other person for collective
 29 existence"; now, therefore,

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 31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 33 that this body condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian
 34 sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance,
 35 discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech against Asian
 36 Americans and Asian individuals in the United States; and

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body asserts the State's
 39 commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and
 40 compassion, in the spirit of Aloha to serve as a positive role
 41 model for not only the United States but also for the people of
 42 other nations, global alliances, and unions to ensure that all



1 members of the Asian community, regardless of their background,
2 spoken language, or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity
3 and equity; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county departments
6 and agencies are urged to take all appropriate measures to
7 ensure that official actions, documents, and statements,
8 including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not
9 exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, intolerance,
10 discrimination, or hate crimes against the Asian community; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Civil Rights
13 Commission is requested to identify and analyze incidents based
14 on anti-Asian sentiment that have occurred in Hawaii since March
15 2020, including incidents of racism, discrimination, hate
16 crimes, and hate speech; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Civil Rights
19 Commission is requested to submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation and any
21 other actions the Legislature could take to address and prevent
22 actions based on anti-Asian sentiment, to the Legislature no
23 later than forty days prior to the convening of the Regular
24 Session of 2022; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;
28 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation; Governor;
29 Chairperson of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission; Mayor of the
30 County of Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;
31 Mayor of the County of Kauai; Mayor of the County of Maui; and
32 Chairpersons of the county councils of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai,
33 and Maui.

