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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RECOGNIZING THE THETA PSI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED, FOR THEIR SERVICE, SISTERHOOD, AND SCHOLARSHIP NATIONALLY AND IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Henries, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Speakman, Kennedy, McGaw, Bennett, Cortvriend, and McNamara
Date Introduced: February 29, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Theta Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was established
2 internationally in 1908, and in Rhode Island in 1969, and is the oldest Black Sorority in the
3 Nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., the
5 Alpha Kappa Alpha Society was established as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and became the first
6 Greek-letter organization founded by African-American college women; and

7 WHEREAS, Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, has grown
8 from the sixteen original trailblazing women to an international sisterhood with more than
9 355,000 members consisting of chapters dispersed throughout the United States, Africa, Asia and
10 Europe; and

11 WHEREAS, On October 19, 1969, in the City of Providence, sixteen tenacious women
12 chartered the Theta Psi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, guided
13 by the principles of high scholastic and ethical standards, unity, sisterhood and service to all
14 mankind; and

15 WHEREAS, To this day, Alpha Kappa Alpha continues to carry out the vision of its
16 Founders with more than 50 years of dedicated service to the State of Rhode Island; and

17 WHEREAS, Contributing and notable members of Alpha Kappa Alpha include Vice
18 President Kamala Harris and in the Rhode Island Chapter, Beverly Ledbetter, retired Vice
19 President of Brown University; Attorney Susan Pires, and Ann Clanton, founder of the Rhode

1 Island Black Film Festival and a founding member of the Southern New England Association of
2 Black Journalists; and

3 WHEREAS, The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Theta Psi Omega Chapter have
4 been cultivating and encouraging “high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and
5 friendship among college students” in order to be of “Service to All Mankind” for 116 years, and
6 they are eminently deserving of our recognition and gratitude; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
8 recognizes and thanks the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Theta Psi Omega Chapter of the
9 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their service, sisterhood, and scholarship
10 nationally and in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Roxann Johnson-Nance, President of the Theta
13 Psi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Society.

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