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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MAY OF 2025, AS "ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND  
PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Gu, Ujifusa, Quezada, Patalano, Lawson, Vargas, Raptakis,  
Paolino, Rogers, and Urso

Date Introduced: May 13, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 1978, a Joint Congressional Resolution established the first ten days of  
2 May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. These particular days were chosen because they  
3 coincide with the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants in May of 1843, and  
4 the contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad which was  
5 completed in May of 1869; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration  
7 known as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and in 2021, President Biden  
8 issued a Proclamation declaring May as "Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
9 Heritage Month"; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of Asian American residents in the United States was an  
11 estimated 24 million according to the 2020 census, with more than 54 percent holding a  
12 Bachelor's degree or higher level of education, and an estimated 581,200 Asian-owned employer  
13 firms. In addition, Asian Americans encompass more than one million actively serving personnel  
14 in the United States Military; and

15 WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and native Hawaiians have been serving  
16 honorably in the United States Military since the War of 1812; and

17 WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander workforce can  
18 be found in numerous fields including professional, scientific and technical services, as well as  
19 teaching, financial management, engineering, nursing, health care, medicine, social assistance,

1 retail, construction, and repair and maintenance and have paid billions in federal income taxes in  
2 addition to state and local taxes; and

3 WHEREAS, There have been connections between China and Rhode Island since the  
4 18th Century, as highlighted in a recent exhibition entitled, "The Celestial City: Newport and  
5 China," at Rosecliff Mansion from September 2023 to February 2024, which revealed that people  
6 of Chinese heritage contributed to life in Newport, including immigrant entrepreneurs, suffragists,  
7 merchants, makers and sailors; and

8 WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) have  
9 added to the diversity, strength and vibrancy of our state through their culture, language, and  
10 religion and it is fitting and vital to honor and acknowledge their invaluable contributions; now,  
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims May of  
13 2025, as "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" and urges all  
14 Rhode Islanders to learn more about the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and  
15 Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the recipients of Senate Citations presented on  
19 May 13, 2025, to those who have helped promote AANHPI culture and history in Rhode Island.

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