

2026 -- H 8221

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LC005197
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF TAÍNO DESCENDANTS IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Batista, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy,
Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Diaz, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: March 03, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The residents of the State of Rhode Island of Taíno heritage represent a
2 diverse cultural community in our state; and

3 WHEREAS, The Taíno are the Indigenous people of Borikén and other Caribbean
4 Islands, with a rich cultural heritage, language, and traditions; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of several Taíno tribal communities, including the Cibuco
6 Bayamón Taíno Tribe, the Baramaya Guainía Yukayeke, and the Baitoa Magua Yaque Taíno,
7 reside in and contribute to communities across the State of Rhode Island through cultural
8 preservation, education, and community engagement; and

9 WHEREAS, The Taíno People contributed historically and culturally to the rich and
10 vibrant history of Rhode Island; and

11 WHEREAS, Taíno-identifying residents of Rhode Island are part of a broader Taíno
12 Diaspora and contribute to the cultural diversity of the state through education, community
13 engagement, and cultural preservation; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 acknowledges the presence and partnership of the Rhode Island American Indian Heritage
16 Commission, and the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of the Americas, whose members
17 represent the continued survival and resurgence of Taíno heritage in the region; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That this House furthermore recognizes Taíno heritage and acknowledges
19 the presence and contributions of Taíno-descended residents within the state, ensuring that their

1 heritage is recognized and preserved for future generations while fostering a greater
2 understanding of their historical and ongoing contributions to the State of Rhode Island; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit a duly certified resolution to the Taíno community representatives in Rhode Island.

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