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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MAY OF 2026, AS "ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND
PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, Gu, LaMountain, Felag, Burke, Vargas, de la Cruz,
Famiglietti, Valverde, and Appollonio

Date Introduced: May 19, 2026

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
16 serving honorably in the United States Military since the War of 1812; and

17 WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander workforce
18 contribute across numerous fields including professional, scientific and technical services, as well
19 as education, financial management, engineering, nursing, healthcare, medicine, social assistance,

1 retail, construction, and repair and maintenance, and have paid billions in federal, state, and local
2 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 enriched 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 2026, as "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" and urges all
14 Rhode Islanders to learn more about the history and contributions of Asian Americans, Native
15 Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and
16 activities; and be it 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 19, 2026, to those who have helped promote AANHPI culture and history in Rhode Island.

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