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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOCATION OF EXECUTIVE
ORDER 9066

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tobon,
Chippendale, Roberts, Quattrocchi, Price, Kennedy, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 17, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1976, President Gerald Ford signed an order prohibiting
2 the executive branch from ever again instituting an unjust and tragic directive such as the World
3 War II Executive Order 9066, and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan issued a public apology on
4 behalf of the United States government, and authorized reparations for former Japanese American
5 internees or their descendants; and

6 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 had been issued on February 19, 1942, by President
7 Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had come under increasing pressure from military and political
8 advisors to take action after the terrifying bombing of Pearl Harbor; and

9 WHEREAS, The mandate, which was in direct conflict with the Bill of Rights, had
10 substantial and lasting negative consequences for many Americans as it ordered the forced
11 removal of persons it termed to be "enemy aliens" from particular parts of the United States that
12 had been loosely identified as military areas, predominantly on the West Coast; and

13 WHEREAS, The largest number of these detainees were Japanese Americans who were
14 removed en masse to Relocation Centers for the duration of the war, regardless of their American
15 citizenship status, length of residence, or any valid evidence of betrayal or perfidy; and

16 WHEREAS, Taking only the possessions they could carry, over 100,000 loyal American
17 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were forced and confined into cramped quarters
18 within isolated and guarded internment camps surrounded by fencing. Many ended up losing their
19 businesses, farms, and loved ones as a result; and

1 WHEREAS, History has proven that the sacrifices and loyalty of Japanese-Americans
2 with names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Munemori,
3 Miyamura, and many others have made contributions that have provided enrichment, well-being,
4 and security to this nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Recognition of our Country's historic mistake and breach in American
6 citizens' civil rights is essential so that we as a nation never again allow fear, jealousy, or
7 prejudice to rule and that we bestow, protect, and ensure all Americans with liberty and justice;
8 now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
10 commemorates the 46th Anniversary of the revocation of Executive Order 9066; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Japan America Society of Rhode Island and
13 to the Consulate-General of Japan in Boston.

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