

2021 -- H 6333

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MAY OF 2021, AS "ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND
PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Phillips, Slater,
Biah, Casimiro, Alzate, Vella-Wilkinson, and Filippi

Date Introduced: May 12, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

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, In 2019, the number of Asian-American residents in the United States was
11 22.9 million, with more than 54 percent holding a Bachelor's degree or higher level of education,
12 and an estimated 577,835 Asian-owned employer firms. In addition, Asian Americans
13 encompassed more than 2.5 percent of America's military veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, There are 1.6 million Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders as of
15 2019, and the percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders who were military
16 veterans in 2019 was 7.2 percent. More than twenty-three percent hold a Bachelor's degree or
17 higher and 6,653 own employer firms; and

18 WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander work force can
19 be found in numerous fields including professional, scientific and technical services, as well as

1 teaching, financial management, engineering, nursing, health care, medicine, social assistance,
2 retail, construction, and repair and maintenance; and

3 WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have added to the
4 diversity, strength and vibrancy of our state through their culture, language, and religion and it is
5 fitting and vital to honor and acknowledge their invaluable contributions; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
7 proclaims May of 2021, as "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage
8 Month" and urges all Rhode Islanders to learn more about the history of Asian Americans, Native
9 Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and
10 activities; 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 Rhode Island Association of Chinese
13 Americans, the South Asian Student Organization at the University of Rhode Island, the Brown
14 University Korean-American Student Association, the Center for Southeast Asians, the Filipino-
15 American Association of Newport County, Inc., H.O.P.E Foundation International, the India
16 Association of Rhode Island, the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education
17 (ARISE), and Providence Youth Student Movement for Justice & Love (PrYSM).

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