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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MAY OF 2023, AS "ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND  
PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, Gu, F. Lombardi, DiMario, Lauria, Sosnowski, Britto,  
Raptakis, Felag, and E Morgan

Date Introduced: May 02, 2023

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 work force 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 more than \$37.8 billion in federal  
2 income taxes and \$16 billion in state and local taxes; 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 Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims May of  
7 2023, as "Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" and urges all  
8 Rhode Islanders to learn more about the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and  
9 Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities; and be it  
10 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 Alliance of RI Southeast Asians for  
13 Education, the Center for Southeast Asians, the India Association of Rhode Island, the Rhode  
14 Island Association of Chinese Americans, the Japan-America Society and Black Ships Festival of  
15 RI, The Korean-American Association of RI, and the Filipino-American Association of Newport  
16 County.

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