

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 71**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Weber**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Brown, Holden,**  
**Jones-Sawyer, and Mitchell)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Wright)**

July 3, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Africana studies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as introduced, Weber. Africana studies programs.

This measure would formally endorse the invaluable work of California's Africana studies programs, and their faculty, staff, and students. The measure would recognize the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of those programs, and would support the continuation of Africana studies programs in California's institutions of higher education.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The academic discipline of Africana studies  
2 encompasses research, scholarship, and programs that analyze and  
3 reflect the experiences and contributions of African natives and  
4 African Americans; and  
5 WHEREAS, Formal Africana studies programs and departments  
6 at California's universities resulted from student-led movements  
7 dating back to the 1960s. These movements included  
8 demonstrations and student protests, where students, faculty, and

1 community members demanded university courses relevant to  
2 them and their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the 1960s, Africana and Black studies have  
4 been the academic and intellectual extension of the Civil Rights  
5 Movement; and

6 WHEREAS, The formalization of Africana studies increased  
7 awareness of the need for faculty, students, and staff from diverse  
8 communities in California's universities; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Nathan Hare, known as the father of Black  
10 studies programs in the United States, was the department chair  
11 of the nation's first African American studies academic program  
12 in 1968 at San Francisco State University. Following a similar  
13 pursuit, faculty members including, but not limited to, Carrol  
14 Wayman, Vernon Oaks, Norman Chambers, Shirley W. Thomas,  
15 Shirley N. Weber, and Harold K. Brown developed the first Black  
16 studies program at San Diego State University in 1972; and

17 WHEREAS, The University of California campuses at Berkeley,  
18 Davis, Riverside, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara offer  
19 undergraduate degrees in one of African American studies, Black  
20 studies, or Afro-American studies; and

21 WHEREAS, Africana studies is comprised of several disciplines,  
22 including art history, humanities, political science, behavioral  
23 science, and history; and

24 WHEREAS, Africana studies, known in some departments as  
25 Black, Pan-African, or Afro-American studies, encompass the  
26 origin, history, culture, experiences, heritage, achievements, and  
27 contributions of African natives and African Americans; and

28 WHEREAS, Africana studies, a respected academic field, has  
29 fostered the development of professional organizations,  
30 institutionalized departments, research journals, award-winning  
31 publications, and other related programs across the United States;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Departments, programs, and related projects in the  
34 field of Africana and Black studies promote constructive  
35 communication and collaborative efforts among diverse groups,  
36 and encourage respect, understanding, appreciation, equality, and  
37 dignity among all groups; and

38 WHEREAS, The study of the roles, contributions, and  
39 achievements of African natives and African Americans provides

1 a rich and indepth perspective for understanding California and  
2 United States history; and

3 WHEREAS, Africana and related studies incorporate the  
4 influence of African natives and African Americans on the  
5 California education system and on America’s diverse racial and  
6 ethnic groups; and

7 WHEREAS, Africana studies and related academic disciplines  
8 promote a view of ethnic groups as significant contributors to the  
9 history and diversity of California and the United States history;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Africana studies has been the model and inspiration  
12 for other ethnic, gender, and social education programs throughout  
13 the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, The continuation and expansion of Africana studies  
15 within our state’s educational system would encourage students  
16 to analyze and synthesize information with a global perspective;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Support for postsecondary Africana studies  
19 departments, programs, and related projects, including financial  
20 support, will allow for the continued guidance and teaching of a  
21 new generation of students who will enrich and contribute to  
22 California policy, education, and government; now, therefore, be  
23 it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
26 formally endorses the invaluable work of California’s Africana  
27 studies departments, programs, and related projects, and their  
28 faculty, staff, and students; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California also  
30 recognizes that the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of  
31 these programs has contributed greatly to the academic rigor,  
32 prominence, and distinguishing qualities of California’s colleges  
33 and universities and the vitality of other public and private  
34 institutions, including the California state government; and be it  
35 further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California supports  
37 the continuation of Africana studies departments, programs, and  
38 related projects in California’s institutions of higher education;  
39 and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
2 of this resolution to the Regents of the University of California,  
3 the Trustees of the California State University, the Board of  
4 Governors of the California Community Colleges, and the author  
5 for appropriate distribution.

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