

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 61

Introduced by Assembly Member Chu

April 28, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 61—Relative to Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 61, as introduced, Chu. May 2015: Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize May 2015 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One of the earliest records of Asian and Pacific
2 Islander Americans in the United States dates back to 1763 in New
3 Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors who worked the
4 Manila-Acapulco trade route settled; and
5 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made
6 indelible contributions to the history of California and the United
7 States that include, but are not limited to, building the
8 Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the Armed Forces,
9 fighting for the United States in foreign wars, coorganizing the
10 Delano Grape Strike, and advocating for civil rights; and
11 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured
12 hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and
13 discrimination in some of the darkest times in our state’s and
14 nation’s history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized

1 citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, antimiscegenation
2 laws, and Japanese internment; and

3 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to
4 cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business,
5 technology, education, science, government, law, humanities,
6 medicine, sports, and entertainment; and

7 WHEREAS, California is home to over 5.8 million Asian and
8 Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian
9 and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing
10 ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute
12 16 percent of California's population and represent diverse
13 ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian,
14 Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro,
15 Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo
16 Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian,
17 Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese,
18 Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai,
19 Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

20 WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
21 entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses
22 to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally,
23 and own 15 percent of businesses in California; and

24 WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific
25 Islander American Affairs was established in 2004 and is charged
26 with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on
27 issues relating to the social and economic development, rights,
28 and interests of California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
29 communities; and

30 WHEREAS, The California Asian and Pacific Islander
31 Legislative Caucus, a caucus of State Assembly Members and
32 Senators, is composed of a record high 11 Members during the
33 2015–16 Regular Session and represents and advocates for the
34 interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American
35 communities; and

36 WHEREAS, Federal law designates May as "Asian/Pacific
37 American Heritage Month" in Section 102 of Title 36 of the
38 Unified States Code; and

39 WHEREAS, Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage
40 Month provides Californians with an opportunity to recognize the

1 achievements, contributions, and history of Asian and Pacific
2 Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it
3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends Asian and
5 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and
6 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2015 as Asian
7 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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