

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 61

### Introduced by Assembly Member Chu

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Dodd, Eggman, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

April 28, 2015

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 61, as amended, 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

1 Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors who worked the  
2 Manila-Acapulco trade route settled; and

3 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made  
4 indelible contributions to the history of California and the United  
5 States that include, but are not limited to, building the  
6 Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the Armed Forces,  
7 fighting for the United States in foreign wars, coorganizing the  
8 Delano Grape Strike, and advocating for civil rights; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured  
10 hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and  
11 discrimination in some of the darkest times in our state's and  
12 nation's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized  
13 citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, antimiscegenation  
14 laws, and Japanese internment; and

15 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to  
16 cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business,  
17 technology, education, science, government, law, humanities,  
18 medicine, sports, and entertainment; and

19 WHEREAS, California is home to over 5.8 million Asian and  
20 Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian  
21 and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing  
22 ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

23 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute  
24 16 percent of California's population and represent diverse  
25 ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian,  
26 Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro,  
27 Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo  
28 Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian,  
29 Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese,  
30 Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai,  
31 Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

32 WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American  
33 entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses  
34 to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally,  
35 and own 15 percent of businesses in California; and

36 WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific  
37 Islander American Affairs was established in 2004 and is charged  
38 with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on  
39 issues relating to the social and economic development, rights,

1 and interests of California’s Asian and Pacific Islander American  
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Asian and Pacific Islander  
4 Legislative Caucus, a caucus of State Assembly Members and  
5 Senators, is composed of a record high 11 Members during the  
6 2015–16 Regular Session and represents and advocates for the  
7 interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American  
8 communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Federal law designates May as “Asian/Pacific  
10 American Heritage Month” in Section 102 of Title 36 of the  
11 Unified States Code; and

12 WHEREAS, Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage  
13 Month provides Californians with an opportunity to recognize the  
14 achievements, contributions, and history of Asian and Pacific  
15 Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends Asian and  
18 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and  
19 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2015 as Asian  
20 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
22 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.