

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 61

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 52

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

[Filed with Secretary of State June 2, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

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

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

WHEREAS, One of the earliest records of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States dates back to 1763 in New Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors who worked the Manila-Acapulco trade route settled; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute 16 percent of California’s population and represent diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Okinawan,

Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai, Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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