

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 125

Introduced by Assembly Member Chau
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Chiu, Chu, Kim,
Low, Ting, and Williams)
(Coauthors: Senators Liu, Nguyen, and Pan)

January 25, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 125—Relative to Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 125, as introduced, Chau. Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize May 2016 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

1 discrimination in some of the darkest times in our state’s and
2 nation’s history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized
3 citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, antimiscegenation
4 laws, and Japanese internment; and

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

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

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, The California Joint Asian and Pacific Islander
33 Legislative Caucus, a caucus of State Assembly Members and
34 Senators, is composed of 12 Members during this session and
35 represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse Asian and
36 Pacific Islander American communities; and

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

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

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
6 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature commends Asian and
7 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and
8 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2016 as Asian
9 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further

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

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