

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 125

Introduced by Assembly Member Chau

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Chiu, Chu, Kim, Low, Ting, ~~and Williams~~ Williams, Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chávez, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Waldron, Weber, and Wood)

(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 amended, 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

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 Joint Asian and Pacific Islander
4 Legislative Caucus, a caucus of State Assembly Members and
5 Senators, is composed of 12 Members during this session and
6 represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse Asian and
7 Pacific Islander American communities; and

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

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

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends Asian and
17 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and
18 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2016 as Asian
19 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further

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