

Introduced by Senators Lara and Pan

April 5, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 127—Relative to the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 127, as introduced, Lara. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community.

This resolution would recognize the role that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have played in the development of California throughout the state's history and encourage all federal, state, and local organizations to promote the preservation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and culture.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Making up more than 347,000 community
2 members, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI)
3 community in California has one of the largest NHPI populations
4 in the United States. In addition, the NHPI population increased
5 by 29 percent between 2000 and 2010; and
6 WHEREAS, The NHPI community makes up an incredibly
7 diverse group comprised of a number of different ethnicities,
8 including, but not limited to, Guamanian or Chamorro, Native
9 Hawaiian, Marshallese, Fijian, Samoan, and Tongan. Outside of
10 Hawaii, California has the largest population of Native Hawaiians,
11 numbering 74,932. The second largest NHPI group is Samoan
12 with a population of 60,876. Guamanian or Chamorro is the next
13 largest NHPI group in California, with a population of 44,425.
14 The largest Fijian and Tongan populations in the United States are

1 also found in California, with populations of 24,059 and 22,893,
2 respectively; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of the Spanish-American War in 1898,
4 the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893, and the
5 German-American conflict in Samoa in 1899, the United States
6 came to assume formal government control of Guam, Hawaii, and
7 American Samoa. Because of this, the Chamorros of Guam, the
8 Hawaiians of Hawaii, and the Samoans of American Samoa became
9 part of the United States. Many Pacific Islander migrants were
10 men enlisted in the United States Armed Forces, and others worked
11 in various plantation and entertainment industries. Today, these
12 Pacific Islanders are American citizens or American nationals; and

13 WHEREAS, An influx of NHPIs arrived in California in the
14 1950s after World War II. Post World War II, military service
15 brought Pacific Islanders from the United States territories of
16 American Samoa and Guam to California. Ten percent of Native
17 Hawaiians and 12 percent of Guamanian or Chamorro Americans
18 are veterans, compared to the statewide average of 8 percent.
19 Native Hawaiians and Tongans came to California seeking
20 economic opportunities, with many Tongans migrating to
21 California via American Samoa. Mormon church activities also
22 brought Tongan students and other NHPI immigrants to California.
23 Many NHPIs initially settled in southern California cities such as
24 Carson, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oceanside, and San Diego,
25 while others settled in Sacramento and San Francisco. Most NHPI
26 Californians today reside in the greater Sacramento, San Francisco,
27 and Los Angeles areas; and

28 WHEREAS, The 2010 Census Bureau data shows that NHPIs
29 are continuing to become a growing part of our nation's economy.
30 California has the greatest number of NHPI-owned businesses in
31 the continental United States. Between 2002 and 2007, the number
32 of NHPI-owned businesses increased 30 percent, while the number
33 of United States businesses overall increased only 18 percent.
34 During that same period, NHPI-owned businesses also saw a
35 48-percent increase in revenue, while total business receipts for
36 United States businesses increased only 33 percent. Data show
37 that about 56 percent of all Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific
38 Islander businesses were owned by people of Native Hawaiian
39 origin in 2007; Guamanian-owned or Chamorro-owned businesses
40 accounted for 10 percent, Samoan-owned businesses accounted

1 for 8 percent, and businesses owned by people of Other Pacific
2 Islander descent accounted for 25 percent; and

3 WHEREAS, The NHPI community faces unique challenges as
4 a result of its distinct history and community experience. As a
5 result, the NHPI community organized and helped institute an
6 update to the federal Office of Management and Budget's
7 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 in 1997 to establish a specific
8 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category relative to the
9 collection of data; and

10 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognized the importance of
11 requiring state agencies, boards, or commissions collecting and
12 reporting demographic data on major Pacific Islander groups,
13 including Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Tongan, and Fijian in
14 Sections 8310.5 and 8310.7 of the Government Code; and

15 WHEREAS, While NHPIs represent diverse ethnic, religious,
16 and political backgrounds, they all also share similar cultural values
17 and norms. These values include a respect and deference for elders,
18 appreciation for reciprocal labor and time, and an understanding
19 of communal and intergenerational authority; and

20 WHEREAS, Preserving our Native Hawaiian and Pacific
21 Islander communities throughout California is critical to our state
22 history and for the preservation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific
23 Islander culture, history, traditions, and other elements of their
24 heritage; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the role that
27 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have played in the social,
28 economic, and political development of California throughout the
29 state's history; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all federal, state, and
31 local organizations to promote the preservation of Native Hawaiian
32 and Pacific Islander history and culture, including the preservation
33 of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; and be it
34 further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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