

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 96

Introduced by Assembly Member Hayashi

September 10, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 96—Relative to
Korean-American Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 96, as introduced, Hayashi. Korean-American Day.

This measure would proclaim January 13, 2010, as Korean-American Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On January 13, 1903, the history of Korean
2 immigration to America began, when 102 courageous Korean men,
3 women, and children landed in Hawaii after venturing across the
4 vast Pacific Ocean aboard the S.S. Gaelic; and
5 WHEREAS, The hopes of these Korean immigrants for America,
6 the land of opportunity, were quickly hindered by social, economic,
7 and language barriers of unforeseen magnitude; and
8 WHEREAS, These Korean immigrants did not falter in their
9 pursuit of the American dream. Through tenacious effort and
10 sacrifice, they established a new home in a new land and educated
11 their Korean-American children; and
12 WHEREAS, Between 1904 and 1907, approximately 1,000
13 Korean Americans entered the United States mainland from Hawaii
14 through San Francisco, where the first Korean-American political
15 organizations and Korean-language publications were established;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, Many Korean Americans left San Francisco,
2 primarily to become farmworkers. Some Korean Americans
3 combined their money and resources to lease farmland near the
4 towns of Dinuba and Reedley in the San Joaquin Valley and in the
5 Sacramento Valley. Dozens of other Korean Americans served as
6 wage laborers for mining companies and as section hands on the
7 railroads in Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Utah; and

8 WHEREAS, The Japanese occupation of Korea prevented
9 further Korean immigration into the United States. However, many
10 Korean Americans desired to establish families in the United States,
11 despite the new limitations on immigration. As a result, a picture
12 bride system was established, which delivered approximately 1,000
13 new Korean immigrants to Hawaii, and 100 more to the Pacific
14 coast of the United States mainland, before 1924; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco remained the center of the
16 Korean-American community during this period, but there was a
17 gradual migration of Korean Americans from San Francisco and
18 the surrounding rural areas to southern California. As more
19 employment opportunities opened up, a new, burgeoning
20 community of Korean Americans began to thrive in the Los
21 Angeles area; and

22 WHEREAS, While the first Korean immigrants to the United
23 States fought and sacrificed to establish themselves, their children
24 grew up to be patriotic citizens, many of whom went on to serve
25 in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and
26 to make other important contributions to mainstream American
27 society; and

28 WHEREAS, The Federal Immigration Act of 1965 opened the
29 door for a new wave of Korean immigrants to enter the United
30 States. Since its enactment, Korean Americans have become one
31 of the fastest growing groups of Asian Americans in the United
32 States. In 1960, approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry
33 lived in the United States, but by 1970, that number increased to
34 69,130. By 1980, the number of people of Korean ancestry living
35 in the United States had increased over five-fold to 354,593, and
36 by 1990, that number more than doubled, increasing to 798,849.
37 In 2007, it was estimated that 1,555,293 people with some Korean
38 ancestry lived in the United States, representing more than a
39 sixty-fold increase since 1960; and

1 WHEREAS, With diligence, fortitude, and an enduring belief
2 in the American dream, Korean immigrants have helped to turn
3 emergent areas within the State of California into thriving and
4 respectable communities, while raising their children to be
5 productive Korean Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have become an integral part
7 of mainstream American society and have made important
8 contributions as Californians in the fields of finance, technology,
9 law, medicine, education, sports, media, the arts, the military, and
10 government, as well as other areas; and

11 WHEREAS, As the Korean-American community prepares for
12 a new era and creates new history, Korean Americans must instill
13 in younger generations the proper appreciation for the courage and
14 values of their forefathers, a deep sense of their roots, and pride
15 in their own cultural heritage so that they may better contribute to
16 the great State of California, rich with ethnic and cultural diversity;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
20 hereby proclaims January 13, 2010, as Korean-American Day; and
21 be it further

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