

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 18, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani

June 8, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 67, as amended, Furutani. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities.

This resolution would recognize the contributions of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to California, and would also recognize the importance of preserving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and their traditions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Making up more than 284,000 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 23.4 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/Chamorro, Native
9 Hawaiian, Marshallese, Fijian, Samoan, and Tongan. Outside of
10 Hawaii, California has the largest population of Native Hawaiians
11 numbering 60,048. The second largest NHPI group is Samoan
12 with a population of 49,804. Guamanian/Chamorro is the next

1 largest NHPI group in California with a population of 33,849. The
2 largest Tongan population in the United States is also found in
3 California with a population of 15,252; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, The 2010 Census Bureau data shows that NHPIs
27 are continuing to become a growing part of our nation's economy.
28 Between 2002 and 2007, NHPI-owned businesses saw a 31-percent
29 growth in number, while United States businesses overall increased
30 in number only 18 percent. NHPI-owned businesses also saw a
31 52-percent increase in revenue, while total business receipts for
32 United States businesses increased only 33 percent. Data show
33 that about 56 percent of all Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific
34 Islander businesses were owned by people of Native Hawaiian
35 origin in 2007; Guamanian-owned or Chamorro-owned businesses
36 accounted for 10 percent, Samoan-owned businesses accounted
37 for 8 percent, and businesses owned by people of Other Pacific
38 Islander descent accounted for 25 percent; and

39 WHEREAS, The NHPI community faces unique challenges as
40 a result of its distinct history and community experience. As a

1 result, the NHPI community organized and helped institute an
 2 update to the ~~Federal~~ *federal* Office of Management and Budget's
 3 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 in 1997 to establish a specific
 4 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category relative to the
 5 collection of data. The NHPI community would be best served if
 6 local, state, and federal entities disaggregated data to identify trends
 7 specific to the NHPI community; and *collection of data; and*

8 WHEREAS, While NHPIs represent diverse ethnic, religious,
 9 and political backgrounds, they all also share similar cultural values
 10 and norms. These values include a respect and deference for elders,
 11 appreciation for reciprocal labor and time, and an understanding
 12 of communal and intergenerational authority; and

13 WHEREAS, Preserving our Native Hawaiian and Pacific
 14 Islander communities throughout California is critical to our state
 15 history and for the preservation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific
 16 Islander culture, history, traditions, and other elements of their
 17 heritage; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
 19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the role that
 20 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have played in the social,
 21 economic, and political development of California throughout the
 22 state's history; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all federal, state, and
 24 local organizations to promote the preservation of Native Hawaiian
 25 and Pacific Islander history and culture, including the preservation
 26 of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; and be it
 27 further

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