
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND
COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

1 WHEREAS, during the chaos of World War I between the years
2 1915 and 1923, approximately 1,500,000 Armenian men, women, and
3 children living within the Ottoman Empire's borders were killed
4 in a brutal genocide; and
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6 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Armenians were forced to
7 flee to foreign countries after being stripped of their
8 possessions, national identities, and homeland; and
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10 WHEREAS, documented as the first instance of genocide in
11 the 20th century, the Armenian genocide remains unacknowledged
12 by the Republic of Turkey to this day; and
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14 WHEREAS, even though over 90 years have passed since these
15 mass killings took place, present-day atrocities continue to
16 resonate throughout the world; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is every person's responsibility to recognize
19 the brutal slayings of so many innocents, remember their
20 suffering, and vow to help prevent future occurrences of
21 genocide; and
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23 WHEREAS, Armenia's ties to Hawaii started in the 1920s with
24 the gifted painter Arman T. Manookian, a genocide survivor, who
25 lived in Hawaii for almost six years before his tragic death in
26 1931, and who became known as Hawaii's Van Gogh; and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a growing Armenian-American community
29 that is involved in all aspects of public life, including
30 business, education, and government; and
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32 WHEREAS, each year, Armenians throughout the world honor
33 those who perished in the first genocide of the 20th century,
34 and all the people of the world should join in recognizing and
35 commemorating the Armenian genocide to ensure that this ugly



1 testament to man's inhumanity to man is never forgotten; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2009, that this body hereby declares April 24 as a day of
7 remembrance in recognition and commemoration of the Armenian
8 genocide; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body joins with Hawaii's
11 Armenian-American community and all Armenians worldwide in
12 recognizing and honoring those who were killed and persecuted
13 during the Armenian genocide, and urging people throughout the
14 world to never forget these horrific crimes against humanity;
15 and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, who in turn is
19 requested to transmit copies to the Executive Director of the
20 Armenian National Committee of America and Armenian National
21 Committee of Hawaii.

