HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AND ALL ACTS OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE, DISCRIMINATION, HATE CRIME, AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND ASIAN INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, racism and discrimination towards individuals of Asian origin based on unfounded fear have always existed in the United States, manifesting in hate crimes and enactment of racist laws such as:

1 2

(1) The Chinese Massacre of 1871, in which twenty Chinese men were lynched by five hundred white men in Los Angeles who were provoked by "yellow peril" - fear of an Asian invasion and resentment of cheap labor coming from China;

(2) The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that banned new Chinese immigrants and prevented existing Chinese residents from becoming U.S. citizens until 1943, instigated by the same fear against individuals of Chinese descent:

(3) The internment and confiscation of property of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, due to war propaganda depicting Asians as crafty and cunning, despite many of their families fighting against the Japanese as members of the United States armed forces;

(4) The 1982 symbolic murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, by white automobile workers enraged by the success of Japanese automobile manufacturers in the United States at a time when America was losing manufacturing jobs; and

(5) The revenge-motivated crimes against Hindus, Muslim, and Sikhs, many of whom were South Asians, in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

H.R. NO. 142

WHEREAS, despite the undeniable history of persistent discrimination, violence, and hate crimes against Asians in the United States, racism against Asians is often considered nonexistent, insignificant, or justified, due to a false but pervasive stereotype about the Asian community being a "model minority", a myth that was created during the Civil Rights era to stymie racial justice movements, which suggests a fallacy that Asian Americans are more successful than other ethnic minorities, and therefore, they do not experience struggle, racial discrimination, violence, or hate crimes; and

1 2

WHEREAS, as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic began to spread across the United States in early 2020, prominent public figures and the media utilized politically-charged, inflammatory, and xenophobic rhetoric when referring to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", "Wuhan virus", and "kung flu" to push a disproved theory that COVID-19 originated in a lab in China; and

 WHEREAS, according to a poll taken of the adult population in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, approximately three in ten Americans blame China or Chinese people for the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, anti-Asian sentiment surged and random crimes and hate crimes against Asians skyrocketed, instigating violent attacks against individuals of not only Chinese, but also of Thai, Vietnamese, Filipino, and Japanese origin; and

 WHEREAS, an August 2020 report by the United Nations found more than one thousand eight hundred racist incidents against Asians in the United States over an eight-week period from March to May 2020, and data from the New York Police Department showed a one thousand nine hundred percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the persistent discrimination, violence, and hate crimes against Asians in the United States are placing Asian individuals and their families, communities, and businesses at risk; and

 WHEREAS, advancing inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins, and ethnicities is critical to the safety and security of the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, rooted deeply in the culture of Hawaii is the "Aloha Spirit" that is codified in section 5-7.5(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, as "the coordination of mind and heart within each person" that "brings each person to the self," under which "each person must think and emote good feelings to others"; and

WHEREAS, "Aloha" is "more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation", but "means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return" and constitutes "the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that this body condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crimes, and hate speech against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States; and

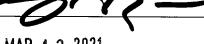
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body asserts the State's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and compassion, in the spirit of Aloha to serve as a positive role model for not only the United States but also for the people of other nations, global alliances, and unions to ensure that all members of the Asian community, regardless of their background, spoken language, or religious beliefs, are treated with dignity and equity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county departments and agencies are urged to take all appropriate measures to ensure that official actions, documents, and statements, including those that pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not exhibit or contribute to racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against the Asian community; and

H.R. NO. 142

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Chairpersons of the county councils of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 1 2 2021