

**Hawaii***Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Thursday, March 18, 2021

9:15 AM

Via Video Conference

in consideration of

**SCR 66 / SR 48****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.**

Chairs RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides written comments in support of SCR 66 / SR 48, which condemns and denounces 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.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest and promotes equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all.

Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.

Let us not forget the words of Pastor Martin Neimöller:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.  
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.  
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SCR 66 / SR 48. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:00:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
amy agbayani	Testifying for Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice chair Keohokalole and members of the committee:

My name is Amy Agbayani, co-chair of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). We strongly supports SCR 66 and SR 48 and respectfully urge you pass the resolutions.

I am an immigrant Filipino; researcher on Asian Americans; Emeritus UH Manoa director for student diversity; and community advocate for civil rights. I want to express my appreciation to your committee for hearing these resolutions, to legislators who introduced the resolution and to members of the Filipino Legislative Caucus who support these resolutions. Your past and continuing attention to issues of discrimination, hate crimes and civil rights are critical to our state and the nation. These resolutions are timely and urgent because of the history and increase in anti-Asian attacks, harrasment and discrimination.

A majority of our state is of Asian American ancestry with Filipinos as the largest sub group of Asian Americans (AA). At the national level, AA account for 6% of the US population and are the fastest growing major racial/ethnic group in the US. The largest US racial group is White (60%), followed by Hispanics (18%), Black Americans (12%), Native Americans (1%), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (< 1%) (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019). The AA category is diverse and includes 19 ethnic groups. Six groups constitute 86% of all AAs: Chinese (23%), Filipino, (19%), Indian (19%), Vietnamese (9%), Korean (9%), Japanese (7%). Asian Americans make up 28% of immigrants,.

Anti-Asian hate crimes and harassment have increased significantly in schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces during the pandemic. President Trump and other officials referred to COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus" and blamed AAs for the pandemic. AAs were more likely than any other group to report being subjected to slurs or jokes because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak: 31% reported experiencing slurs, compared with 21% of Black adults, 15% of Hispanic adults, and 8% of White adults. Undeniably, in 2020 COVID-19 dominated nearly every aspect of life globally, with the US leading the world in COVID-19 deaths and infections. The pandemic impacted all US ethnic groups with disproportionate numbers of infections

and deaths among communities of color. Many AA are essential health workers: 1 in 5 physicians and 1 in 11 nurses. Although only 4% of the nation's nurses are Filipino, 30% of the nurses who died in the pandemic were Filipino. Income inequality only widened during the pandemic because many AA immigrants were frontline low-income workers and small business owners.

Asian American's history of struggles for equality and to "belong" has not been well documented or visible. Last year, Asian Americans joined in solidarity with the Black community and articulated AA benefit from laws and policies guaranteeing civil rights, voting rights, and changes to immigration laws that allowed more legal immigrants from Asian countries.

Individuals and institutions must do more to address inequality and racism facing Asian Americans. These resolutions are a clear and valuable commitment to inclusiveness, diversity and equality. I respectfully urge you to pass these resolutions.

Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2021

9:15 AM

## **SUPPORT FOR SCR 66/ SR 48 - Condemning Anti-Asian Sentiment & All Acts of Racism**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,100 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,000 of Hawai`i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure and all measures that call out racism and injustice. And it is not only the overt racism, it is the subtle ways that the some people in society surveil people who are different.

We all have a responsibility to recognize anti-Asian and all racist acts and to speak out against it. That is the only way to stop hate. EXPOSE IT ! Being silent is not an option. Tragic events in history remind us that silence = complicity and we all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but to Kanaka Maoli our host culture, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). One World. One Family. We're All In It !

The sad events enumerated in this resolution and the fact that we are still struggling with diversity in 2021 is a stark reminder that there is still much work to be done in Hawai`i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 66/HB 58

*"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 1:09:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 66.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 1:15:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SCR 66. Thank you!



## SCR 66/SR 48, 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

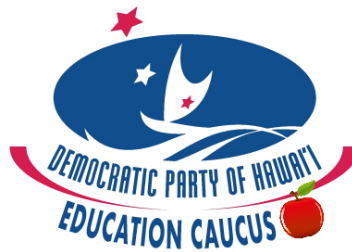
MARCH 18, 2021 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports SCR 66/SR 48, 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.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans across the U.S. Similarly, a recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, revealed that hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent in 2020. Anti-Asian xenophobia has frequently resulted in violent acts. Just this week, an armed white male murdered eight people of Asian ancestry in Atlanta, Georgia, in an act of racial terror. We must take a stand against racial discrimination. If we don't, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We will learn very shortly that racism is a sickness unto death."

**Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · [kris@imuaalliance.org](mailto:kris@imuaalliance.org)**



**SCR 66/SR 48, 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.**

MARCH 18, 2021 · SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
· CHAIR SEN. KARL RHOADS

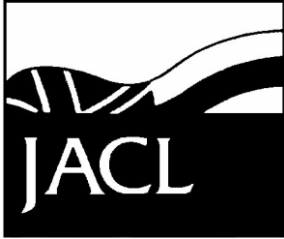
**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SCR 66/SR 48, 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.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans across the U.S. Similarly, a recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, revealed that hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent in 2020. Anti-Asian xenophobia has frequently resulted in violent acts. Just this week, an armed white male murdered eight people of Asian ancestry in Atlanta, Georgia, in an act of racial terror. We must take a stand against racial discrimination. If we don't, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We will learn very shortly that racism is a sickness unto death."

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · [kriscoffield@gmail.com](mailto:kriscoffield@gmail.com)**





## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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*Working For A Greater America*

### Board Members

March 16, 2021

Geoff Sogi  
President

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Minda Yamaga  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Alison Kunishige  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

From: Geoff J. Sogi, President  
Japanese American Citizens League – Honolulu Chapter

Jacce Mikulanec  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Re: STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 66  
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.

Shawn Benton  
Treasurer

Sean Ibara  
Secretary

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

Susan Arnett

Alphonso Bragg

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)–Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SCR 66.

Liann Ebesugawa

David Forman

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. Locally our organization works to protect the civil and human rights of all member of our community regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any group effected by bigotry or discrimination.

Jamie Hong

Brandon Kimura

Trisha Nakamura

Kent Walther

SCR 66 is an important action by the Legislature as the State and its leadership has tremendous influence on the sentiments and actions of our communities. We have been so keenly aware of this with our previous president's ability to incite division and spur mistrust and hate. SCR 66 condemns and denounces all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism against Asians in the United States and urges all State and county departments and agencies to take 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. We urge you to pass this measure out of Committee to demonstrate our State's commitment to the civil rights and dignity of all, and refusal to condone hatred and bigotry. We commend the proactive efforts to not take for granted that anti-Asian sentiments and racism can and do take place in our State.

### Legal Counsel

Benjamin Kudo

### Advisory Council

Allicyn Hikida-Tasaka

Clayton Ikei

William Kaneko

Colbert Matsumoto

Alan Murakami

While Asians are the current targets of fear and mistrust, we must not forget that this vitriol can easily be focused on any other group. SCR 66 is one vehicle to help our State remain vigilant in protecting the safety and dignity of those in our communities that may suffer from discrimination. This resolution also demonstrates our solidarity with others in the United States who also believe in the higher ideals of appreciating rather than vilifying racial, ethnic and cultural differences. We know here in Hawai'i that these differences make us a stronger and more resilient community in every way.

Thank you for considering our testimony in strong support of SCR 66.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 18, 2021 at 9:15 am

By  
Doris Ching  
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

RE: SCR 66 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.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Members of the Committee: I am testifying as a private citizen in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 66, as well as Senate Resolution 48, which condemn and denounce Anti-Asian sentiment and all acts of racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States. In June 2020, Dr. Amy Agbayani and I conducted a survey Re Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). The survey respondents included Senator Mazie Hirono who stated, "Reports of violence against Asian Americans nearly tripled – people were spit on, punched, and even stabbed . . ." New York Congresswoman Grace Meng reported, "Since January 2020, we have seen another pandemic—that of hate and injustice against Asian American communities—fueled by misinformation and scapegoating against Asian Americans for the spread of COVID-19." Congresswoman Meng's resolution condemning anti-Asian sentiment was endorsed by over 500 organizations across the nation.

The recent surge of aggressive anti-Asian bullying and racial assaults across the continent in times of the pandemic is disconcerting and especially troubling that unrelenting attacks are escalating fear among Asian Americans in areas of smaller Asian American populations and scarce advocacy in states other than Hawai'i. A Southeast Asian American higher education professional who responded to the survey stated, "I am fearful for the safety of my family and myself. I witness stares and brace for potential altercations in public spaces. I fear for my Chinese American partner who sometimes leaves home unaccompanied. I don't believe this fear will subside soon or ever."

We concur with our survey respondents' call to address racism, including anti-Asian racism. We also believe Asian Americans must be strong to protest racism in solidarity with other racial/ethnic groups. With the surge of racial violence against Asian Americans, we see an urgency for Asian Americans to come together and join forces in unity to support and empower Asian Americans across all regions of the nation. Understanding the power of strength in numbers, an internally strong and united Asian

American community can create a powerful force for equity and justice for all racial/ethnic groups.

I thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for your insightful and compassionate commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and equality for Asian Americans. SCR 66 and SR 48 deserve strong support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SCR 66.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 11:52:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a civil rights activist and as an act of Aloha to my many friends in Hawaii of Asian ancestry, I strongly support this resolution.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:25:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is PURE COMMUNIST Raceisum. Anybody that stands for this will be an Enemy of America!!

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 8:51:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.
- We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).
-

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 4:40:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR66/SR48. We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Hawaii needs to stand for building safe, healthy and equitable communities where acceptance and understanding are the standards by which we live and act. Please support SCR66/SR48. Thank you.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 6:36:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SCR66 because it is a clear statement that racism is not supported in Hawaii. I abhor racism, xenophobia, homophobia, discrimination and all forms of intolerance. I want to be proud that my state does the same.



**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:39:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) wherever and whenever it occurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this resolution.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 1:16:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Discrimination cuts through a person's existence. We have no choice as to the ethnic group we're born into.

During WWII the Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans, without regard to citizenship, were removed from their homes and imprisoned. The ones remaining were called "Japs" or sneered at.

This kind of behavior is inexcusable when they were not responsible for whatever action they were being judged by. Yet, our Government permitted this outrageous action to be taken by EO9066. WE MUST STOP THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR by laws that will punish these cruel offenders.

Mahalo

E. Ileina Funakoshi

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:55:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear JDC Committee,

I support this bill! My mother and father's family were in US concentration camps. My father was in the 442 so he wasn't. But it was racism that did this to 120,000 Japanese Americans. However i agree with Common Cause that racism of any kind is not on!

- Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit.
- Let us not forget the words of Pastor Martin Neimöller:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

- We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740



**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:30:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 4:44:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee on the Judiciary,

Please support SCR66.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against not only the Asian community but all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

We can make a statement about disrespectful behavior and take a stand on the anti-Asian harrassment that has occurred. Our powerful message can promote peaceful living in communities across the nation.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this resolution.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:45:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hate Crime against Asian-Americans are regreably increasing. There is no room in our nation for racism or hate crimes against anybody. Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments on this matter. As the parent of an adopted Asian-Amercian, I full support passage of SCR66.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:34:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support scr66 for the simple reason that all acts of hate against any race in this country are wrong, especially with the recent escalation in anti-Asian hate crimes.

Mahalo for your attention.



**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:04:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I hereby support this bill as it relates to the same hatred, hate crimes, and crimes against humanity that have continuously plagued the American scene, since long before America was even a nation.

Furthermore, I'd like to see educational material that teaches how detrimental these behaviors are to humanity as a whole.

Lastly, I'd like to see public education rolled out to teach those who move here from the continental United States, as they seem to arrive with a predetermined judgment on how much their needs exceed the needs of the people who have been born, raised, and are native to Hawai'i

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:41:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support SCR66. Thank you for making this important statement and condemning anti-Asian discrimination in all forms.

Thank you,

Dina Shek

March 16, 2021

To: Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Amy Monk

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR66/HCR168

Thank you for allowing testimony in support of the resolution HCR 168.

I can't believe I am writing something as obvious as this. All racism should be condemned and the most recent attacks and deaths be denounced loudly and publicly. We should all be morally outraged by these senseless acts of prejudice and bigotry.

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:37:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

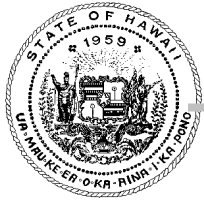
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yvonne Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this 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.

While the Aloha spirit guides our state in how we treat and respect each other, acts of racism in Hawaii and across the nation are on the rise and we must collectively reject these acts and behaviors. The adoption of this resolution would send a strong message to stand against such hateful and unacceptable acts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

**LATE**

March 18, 2021  
9:15 a.m.  
via Videoconference

To: Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Hon. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair  
Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.C.R. No. 66 / S.R. No. 48

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.C.R. No. 66 and S.R. No. 48 condemn and denounce anti-Asian sentiment, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, and hate crimes and hate speech against Asian Americans and other Asians in the United States.

In the wake of the horrific mass shooting in Georgia on Tuesday, March 16, in which six of eight who were killed were Asian women, and an escalating spate of anti-Asian hate speech and hate violence attacks on Asians nationwide over the past year, we share in the sense of loss, sadness and mourning for the victims of these senseless acts, join the broader civil rights community in outrage over the toll that racism continues to rip from the lives of communities of color, and call for justice and protection from continuing racist attacks. It has to stop.

While much has been made of the spike in incidents of anti-Asian harassment and violent attacks on

Asians attributed to the escalation of anti-Asian xenophobia and scapegoating during the COVID-19 pandemic, these are not an aberration, but consistent with anti-Asian racism that has been an integral element of American history, society, politics, and culture going back to the 19th century.

### **Our History of Anti-Asian Racism**

The history of racism and discrimination against Asian Pacific Islanders in America is well documented – including immigration policy based on racial quotas, the Chinese Exclusion Act and Gentlemen’s Agreement (barring Japanese immigration), bar to naturalization for Asian immigrants (until after WWII), portrayal as the “Yellow Peril,” alien land laws, contract labor (a form of indentured servitude), Japanese American internment, the broken promise of U.S. citizenship for Filipino veterans who served under U.S. command during WWII, anti-miscegenation laws, and selective enforcement of race-neutral laws. Against this backdrop, Asian Pacific Islander Americans fought back against discrimination and exclusion – the Chinese took seventeen cases to the United States Supreme Court between 1881 and 1896. Some of these established important civil rights precedents.

### **The Vincent Chin Case – Lessons for Us Four Decades Later**

On June 19, 1982, a 27 year old Chinese man was beaten to death in Detroit after an altercation in a strip bar, where he was celebrating his bachelor party a week before his wedding. Vincent Chin was a second generation Chinese American. His attackers were two white men, Ronald Ebens, a Chrysler plant superintendent and his stepson Michael Nitz, a laid-off autoworker. Ebens used racial epithets “Chink” and “Nip” and said, “It’s because of motherf\*\*\*ers like you that we’re out of work.” A scuffle ensued and everyone was thrown out of the bar.

Ebens and Nitz paid a third man to help them “get the Chinese.” They found him in front of a crowded McDonald’s. Nitz held Chin down while his stepfather swung his Louisville Slugger baseball bat, hitting Vincent Chin’s head four times. Vincent Chin died four days later.

In March 1993, Ebens and Nitz plead guilty and no contest to beating Vincent Chin to death, and were sentenced to three years probation. The Chinese community in Detroit and then APA communities

nationwide were outraged. They organized and demanded justice for Vincent Chin, eventually convincing the Department of Justice to prosecute Ebens and Nitz for violating Vincent Chin's civil rights. Ebens was convicted and sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment, but that conviction was reversed on appeal. On retrial, Ebens was acquitted. Neither Ebens nor Nitz served a day in prison for admittedly killing Vincent Chin.

Now, in 2021, Asian Pacific Islander Americans are still being targeted for racial harassment and violence. At first it was labeled as particularly despicable because the elderly were being targeted, but attackers have targeted women and men of all ages all across the nation. *No one should feel unsafe in their own communities* – this is not just an issue for Asian Pacific Islander Americans. It is not enough to mourn or to be outraged. We have to confront racism and work toward reconciliation with and for those who have been and continue to be harmed. Only then can we begin to heal.

*Thank you for your leadership and taking these important first steps on what will be both an urgent and long journey.*

**LATE**

Testimony in Support of SCR 66/SR48

The Affirmative Action, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee of the O‘ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports [SCR 66](#) / [SR 48](#) – 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.

The O‘ahu County Committee platform is clear, “We, the members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i in the 21st century, are both the proud heirs and humble stewards of a political legacy left to us by brave men and women of nearly a century ago, who stood foursquare **against racial, ethnic, class and economic discrimination in our islands.** Today, our Party holds tremendous sway in the political life of our State. But with great power comes a commensurate level of responsibility to the people of Hawai‘i. If we fail in our duty and obligation to the public, as recognized in the law, we will forfeit our right to be taken seriously as responsible stewards of the power which has heretofore been entrusted to us. Therefore we, the O‘ahu County Democrats, as the largest single entity within the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, pledge to support any and all efforts to uphold the legacy bequeathed to us by those farsighted and dedicated Democratic men and women who came before us. **The O‘ahu County Democrats reaffirm our core values of liberty, equality and justice.** These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, health and cultural life in our communities, our County, our State, and our Nation.”

In the wake of anti-Asian acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against Asian Americans and Asian individuals in the United States, we counter such heinous actions by remembering the contributions that Asian Americans have made to America and to Hawai‘i. We remember our esteemed Senator Daniel Akaka and Senator Daniel Inouye, the first Native Hawaiian-Chinese, and the first Japanese American to serve in the U.S. Congress; Representative Patsy Mink, the first Asian American female in the U.S. Congress; Asian leaders in business, education, construction, health, sports, entertainment, the tourism industry, and so much more.

Hawai‘i cannot and will not tolerate anti-Asian acts. It is the kuleana of every citizen of Hawai‘i to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels. This is aloha, this is malama, this is the mantra of Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,

Betty Vega, Co-Chair  
Affirmative Action, Inclusion & Diversity Committee  
O‘ahu County Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:16:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Agnes Malate	Testifying for Filipinos for Affirmative Action	Support	No

Comments:

# TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 66

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

March 18, 2021

9:15 am

Hawai'i State Legislature

Via Videoconference

**To:** Chair Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole

Committee on Judiciary Members: Sen. Laura Acacio, Sen. Kurt Fevella,

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Sen. Chris Lee,

**From:** Agnes Malate, PhD

**LATE**

[armalate@yahoo.com](mailto:armalate@yahoo.com)

The Filipinos for Affirmative Action's mission is to advocate for the civil rights of all in our multicultural community. We firmly support *SCR 66* to condemn and denounce all forms of anti-Asian sentiment and acts.

The racism and discrimination towards individuals of Asian origin based on unfounded fear is not new in the United States and it is alarming to see a resurgence of blatant, unprovoked attacks. Our leaders elected to represent our community in the State Legislature and Congress must be steadfast in protecting the people of our State and nation and we endorse the stance that this resolution makes in affirming the "Aloha Spirit" and calling for State and county departments and agencies 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.

Thank you for your consideration of *SCR 66* and the opportunity to express our strong support.

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:24:12 AM  
Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raymund Liongson	Testifying for Knights of Rizal-Aloha Chapter; UP Alumni Association-Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

The increasing violence against Asian Americans and other people of color across America is outrageous! This got to STOP!

Throughout American history, Asian Americans have been a vital sector of the nation's progress and development. It is appalling that self-righteous nativists and race supremacists, many of them influenced by the lies and bigotry advanced by some public officials who occupied and/or occupy the seat of power, lodge violent assaults against Asian Americans.

We denounce these violence and all forms of prejudice, discrimination, and xenophobia against Asian Americans -- and people of color-- in the strongest form. We support SCR 66.

There is no place for racial (and gender) bias in America and we demand that violators be prosecuted and meted justice accordingly.

Raymund Liongson

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF

**LARRY S VERAY**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**IN FULL SUPPORT OF SCR66 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**

March 17, 2021

Aloha, Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in full support of SCR66. Although I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and because we can't allow for any form of Racism especially against Asian American's and all individuals.

I most strongly urge you to pass SCR66 because we truly need to send a very clear message to every American and all individuals that all forms of racism will not be tolerated. With the recent dramatic increase in hate crimes, hate speeches and physical assaults against Asian American's and individuals, we need to strengthen the law with this House Concurrent Resolution SCR66. Furthermore, the State and Federal government needs to initiate a joint engagement plan to identify those racists in personal attacks on Asians, execute arrest warrants and prosecute with the maximum penalties by law.

Very respectfully,

*Larry S. Veray*

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:40:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Cudiamat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this SCR 66 condemning and denouncing all forms of anit-asian sentiment and all acts of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, hate crime, and hate speech against asian americans in the US.

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:21:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a lifelong Democrat and someone who has fought for civil rights since the 60s, it pains me to see all forms of hate turning so violently against Asian Americans in the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Act and numerous other legislation sought to deny immigrants and people of color access to America and rights of citizenship. The violence, however, has never ceased. But now it must cease. It's time to stop all acts of racism and intolerance in our nation if we are to become an America "of, by, and for the People."

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:33:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this testimony as a private citizen in support of SCR66/SR48, which condemns and denounces 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. The recent spike in hate crimes against Asian Americans across the country has been disheartening and unbelievable, yet is a harsh reality so many face and experience on a daily basis. These lived experiences are not new, but have been heightened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in anti-Asian sentiment has resulted in violent crimes against many in the Asian community. I believe we here in Hawai'i, are fortunate to be surrounded by those who show and share the Aloha Spirit to one another, but this is not the case for those who deal with the pain, suffering, and traumatic experiences in the continental United States. This resolution is important not just to condemn these heinous acts against Asian Americans, but to show that we stand with those who have been negatively impacted and will do what we can to support our fellow neighbors in the continental United States. I humbly ask for your support in passing SCR66/SR48 and thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:12:30 AM  
Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Ver, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Asians are also people of color. We must all continue to work together to get rid of hate so that society can progress forward. I support this bill.



**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:41:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mylene Reyes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR66!

**LATE**

**SCR-66**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:10:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edith Neumiller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SCR NO. 66

Mahalo,

E. Ignacio Neumiller