

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 44

Recognizing the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2003

Mr. AKAKA submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation.

Whereas at the direction of Congress in 1978, the President proclaimed the week beginning May 4, 1979, as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, providing the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and concerns of Asian Pacific Americans;

Whereas the seven day period starting May 4 was designated Asian Pacific Heritage Week as it marks two historical dates—May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and May 10, 1869, Golden Spike Day, when, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants, the first transcontinental railroad was completed;

Whereas the 102nd Congress by law designated that the month of May be annually observed as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;

Whereas according to the U.S. Census Bureau an estimated 12.5 million United States residents trace their ethnic heritage, in full or in part, to Asia and the Pacific Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders can list innovative contributions to all aspects of life in the United States ranging from the first transcontinental railroad to the Internet;

Whereas in the mid-1700's Filipino sailors formed the first Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the bayous of Louisiana;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have added to the vast cultural wealth of our Nation; and

Whereas Americans of Asian Pacific heritage, who include immigrant and indigenous populations, have honorably served to defend the United States in times of armed conflict from the Civil War to the present: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes that the United States draws its
4 strength from its diversity, including contributions
5 made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

6 (2) recognizes that the Asian American and Pa-
7 cific Islander community is a thriving and integral
8 part of American society and culture;

1 (3) supports the goals of Asian Pacific Heritage
2 Month; and

3 (4) recognizes the prodigious contributions of
4 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United
5 States.

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