

No. R-304. House concurrent resolution recognizing the month of May 2024 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in Vermont.

(H.C.R.238)

Offered by: Representatives Roberts of Halifax, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carroll of Bennington, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Hardy, Hashim, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, and Wrenner

Whereas, the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States reflects both rejection and success, and

Whereas, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the Transcontinental Railroad, which was largely completed with Chinese labor, was opened on May 10, 1869, and

Whereas, in 1882, Congress passed the first of several Chinese Exclusion Acts, and this continuing exclusionary policy was not formally repealed until 1943; and, in 2011–2012, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate adopted separate condemnations of their predecessors' actions, and

Whereas, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 forcing Japanese residents, including Japanese Americans residing on the Pacific Coast, into internment camps, and, in 1988, Congress passed Pub. L. No. 100-383, acknowledging the injustice of the internment policy and paying cash reparations, and

Whereas, in 1978, Congress declared a more welcoming policy, adopting Pub. L. No. 95-419 proclaiming “the 7-day period beginning on May 4, 1979, as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week,’” and Pub. L. No. 101-283 extended the 1990 observance to a month; and, in 1992, Congress adopted Pub. L. No. 102-450, making this an annual month-long observance, and

Whereas, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, now also unofficially referred to as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrates the cultural contributions and personal and professional achievements of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; and, as the Pew Research Center documented in a 2023 report, this observance also calls attention to the historic—and regrettably current—discrimination that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to encounter, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the month of May 2024 as Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Asian Cultural Center of Vermont.