

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS EGAN, Davis, Stevens, French, Olson, Wielechowski, Meyer, McGuire, Menard, Ellis, Kookesh

REPRESENTATIVES Petersen, Muñoz, Kawasaki, Gruenberg, Lynn, Johnson, Peggy Wilson, Holmes, Ramras, Kerttula, Millett, Dahlstrom, Tuck, Austerman, Stoltze, Edgmon

Introduced: 2/24/10
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing October 2010 as Filipino American History Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** the earliest documented Filipino presence in Alaska was at Cook Inlet on
 4 June 17, 1788, when a ship from the Philippines arrived with a Filipino crew member; and

5 **WHEREAS** records of whaling ship crews available at the New Bedford Whaling
 6 Museum in New Bedford, Massachusetts, positively identify whaling crew members in
 7 Alaska as Filipinos; and

8 **WHEREAS**, during the early 1900s, Filipino cannery workers, calling themselves
 9 "Alaskeros," began to live permanently in Alaska; and

10 **WHEREAS** Filipinos worked primarily as ore sorters for the various gold mines in
 11 Southeast Alaska, including the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company, the Treadwell Mine
 12 and Mills, and the Ready Bullion Mine and Mill; and

13 **WHEREAS** Filipinos in Alaska were notified by the Selective Service to register for
 14 the draft to serve the United States during World War I and 50 Filipinos were drafted; and

15 **WHEREAS** Filipino American servicemen and service women have a longstanding
 16 history of serving in the armed forces of the United States in World War II, when Filipinos

1 fought against the Japanese invasion; and

2 **WHEREAS**, by 1940, there were 403 Filipinos in Alaska, by official count, and
3 Filipino organizations had been founded in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Anchorage; and

4 **WHEREAS** Filipinos in Alaska have made significant contributions to the growth of
5 the state's economy; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Filipino American community in Alaska, numbering approximately
7 18,000, is the largest Asian-American group in the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music,
9 dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government,
10 science, technology, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of the
11 country; and

12 **WHEREAS** efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American
13 history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National
14 Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have
15 been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of American history; and

16 **WHEREAS** it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models
17 to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their
18 ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 1982, the Filipino American National Historical Society was
20 organized in Seattle, Washington, by Fred and Dorothy Cordova; and

21 **WHEREAS** Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of
22 October in the United States;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the celebration of
24 Filipino American History Month in October, 2010, as a time to study the advancement of
25 Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts to
26 research and examine Filipino American history and culture in order to provide an
27 opportunity for all people in Alaska to appreciate and learn more about Filipino Americans
28 and their historic contribution to the nation and to the state; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the people of Alaska
30 to observe Filipino American History Month in October, 2010, with appropriate programs and
31 activities.