

Senate Resolution 1141

By: Senators Jones of the 10th and Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending all who acknowledge the residual effects of the institution of
2 slavery and express it with the fullest condemnation; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Earl Williams, a resident of the State of Georgia, and his sister, Cordelia "Dee"
4 Taylor, spearheaded the creation of the GU272 Isaac Hawkins Legacy, a group of more than
5 200 direct descendants of 272 slaves sold in 1838 to save Georgetown University from
6 financial ruin; and

7 WHEREAS, the GU272 Isaac Hawkins Legacy group of descendants represents a microcosm
8 of our greater African American community who continue to be economically disadvantaged
9 by our nation's sad history of slavery; and

10 WHEREAS, the GU272 Isaac Hawkins Legacy group declares its intent to launch a series
11 of events to commemorate the 180th anniversary of that 1838 sale, which was reportedly one
12 of the best-documented large sales of slaves in American history; and

13 WHEREAS, the GU272 Isaac Hawkins Legacy group commits to hosting educational forums
14 and programs in the State of Georgia and around the country to generate greater awareness
15 of the story of sacrifice, courage, and resilience of their GU272 ancestors; and

16 WHEREAS, in keeping with its duty, the GU272 Isaac Hawkins Legacy group is working
17 to foster goodwill with those who benefitted from their ancestors' labor and encourage the
18 officials of Georgetown University and the Maryland Jesuits to provide a substantive
19 response to the group's proposal for a compensation fund to address economic disparity and
20 yield economic justice; and

21 WHEREAS, such a response will engender economic dignity and recognition of equality and
22 will promote the common good of our broader society and move definitively to full
23 citizenship; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the historical significance of the sacrifice
25 of the GU272 be appropriately recognized as an intricate part of the fabric of the American
26 story.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize and commend the Isaac Hawkins Legacy descendants for their effort to bring
29 public awareness to the sacrifice of their ancestors and thereby reinforce, through educational
30 and cultural programs, the significance of African Americans' contributions to this great
31 nation.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
34 press.