

SENATE RESOLUTION

8679

By Senators Hasegawa, Honeyford, Fraser, Rolfes, Hobbs, Kohl-Welles,
and Jayapal

1 WHEREAS, The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in
2 the continental United States was the date of October 18, 1587, when
3 the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

4 WHEREAS, The Filipino American National Historical Society
5 recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent
6 Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, Washington State contributed to this history with the
8 recognition of the 1888 documents of Port Blakely on Bainbridge
9 Island, Washington, at the time the largest lumber mill in the world,
10 as listing a "Manilla," the first known employee from the Philippines
11 in the Pacific Northwest; and

12 WHEREAS, These events set in motion a focus on the story of our
13 nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the
14 economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that
15 Filipino Americans have made in countless ways toward the development
16 of the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino
18 American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of
19 the Filipino American National Historical Society; and

20 WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino American youth to have
21 positive role models to instill in them the importance of education,
22 complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of
23 their legacy; and

1 WHEREAS, Washingtonians who have made a national
2 contribution to American culture and society include Filipino
3 Americans Carlos Bulosan, Roy Baldoz, Jose Calugas, Fred and
4 Dorothy Cordova, Pio DeCano Sr., Trinidad Rojo, Bob Santos,
5 Delores Sibonga, Silvestre Tangalan, Bernie Reyes Whitebear,
6 Velma Veloria, Harry Bucsit, Rey Pascua, and many others; and

7 WHEREAS, Filipinos are one of the largest Asian/Pacific
8 Islander communities in Washington State; and

9 WHEREAS, Washington State is the location of historic
10 Filipino American communities, including Wapato, Seattle,
11 Bainbridge Island, Tacoma, Auburn, Bremerton, Pateros, and
12 others; and

13 WHEREAS, Filipinos have served with special distinction in
14 all of the United States military branches; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of the
16 Philippines continue to hold a special bond, which is supported
17 by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The national office of the Filipino American
20 National Historical Society is located in the city of Seattle,
21 Washington; and

22 WHEREAS, Filipino community-based organizations such as the
23 Filipino Community of Seattle provide important community
24 services and serve as a center for the Filipino community;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
26 Senate celebrate October 2015 as the 428th anniversary of the
27 presence of Filipinos in the now United States and as part of an
28 ongoing opportunity to study the advancement of Filipino
29 Americans in the history of the State of Washington; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
31 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Rey
32 Pascua, President of the Filipino American Community of the
33 Yakima Valley; Alma Kern, President of the Filipino Community of
34 Seattle; Alex Borrromeo, President of the Filipino Chamber of
35 Commerce of the Pacific Northwest; and Velma Veloria, former
36 Washington State Representative for the 11th district, for
37 further distribution to the Filipino American National
38 Historical Society, to Wing Luke Asian Museum and other Asian

1 and Pacific Islander organizations, to other historical
2 societies and government entities, and to the Superintendent of
3 Public Instruction.

4 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
5 do hereby certify that this is a true and
6 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8679,
7 adopted by the Senate
8 April 24, 2015

9 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
10 Secretary of the Senate