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SR-81 (2023-2024)

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ENROLLED MAY 14, 2024

PASSED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 81

Introduced by Senator Min

March 19, 2024

Relative to Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 81, Min.

WHEREAS, One of the earliest records of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States dates back to 1763 in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors who worked the Manila-Acapulco trade route settled; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made indelible contributions throughout the history of California and the United States that include, but are not limited to, building the Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the United States Armed Forces, fighting for the United States in foreign wars, coorganizing the Delano Grape Strike, and advocating for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and discrimination in some of the darkest times in our state's and nation's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, antiscegenation laws, and Japanese internment; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business, technology, education, science, government, law, humanities, medicine, sports, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, California is home to over 7,000,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute 15 percent of California's population and represent diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese,

Filipino, Guamanian, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Native Hawaiian, Nepalese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, Vietnamese, and other Asian and Pacific Islander groups; and

WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally, and 31.5 percent of the nation's Asian-owned businesses are in California; and

WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs was established in 2004 and is charged with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on issues relating to the social and economic development, rights, and interests of California's Asian and Pacific Islander American communities; and

WHEREAS, Federal law designates May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month" in Section 102 of Title 36 of the United States Code; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides Californians with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate commends Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and contributions to California, and recognizes May 2024 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.