

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1014

TITLE: Resolution Celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month 2020

AUTHORS: Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Sierra Kantamneni, Senator Emma Sanchez, Senator Richard Doan, and Senator Suzanna Barna

SPONSORS: Student Body Treasurer Jessica Jesurajan, Indian Students Association, President Anisha Patel, Senate President Kyle Garner, Senate President Pro-Tempore Cooper Brown, Member-at-Large Simon Jee, and Senator Rani LaRue

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month is celebrated during the month of May to recognize the contributions, culture, and achievements made by the community members in the United States of America [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month highlights the diversity of the APIDA peoples to renounce the model minority, yellow peril, and Orientalism narratives used to homogenize this community [2]; and,

WHEREAS, after Congress passed House Joint Resolution 1007 in 1978, the first ten days of May became nationally recognized as Pacific/Asian-American Heritage Week [3], which in 1990 was extended to Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month after the passing of an additional bill in Congress [3]; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 23, the University of Florida renamed the Asian Pacific Islander Affairs office to the Asian Pacific Islander Desi Affairs office becoming more inclusive of the Desi population on campus; and,

WHEREAS, as of January 29, the report generated by UF Institutional Planning and Research found that 7.38% of the student body population identifies as Asian, and 0.28% identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander [4]; and,

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2019, a joint letter expressing concerns regarding the change to 808.8 funding limits, which limited the Asian American Student Assembly's funding, was released by the Asian American Student Union, Association of Asian Alumni, and the APIDA Task Force; and,

WHEREAS, The Indian Student Association at the University of Florida aims to promote Indian cultural cognizance and enrichment, and allows students to explore and further understand their identities [5]; and,

WHEREAS, The Asian American Student Union strives to foster environments to celebrate and acknowledge pan-Asian/Asian American culture, and recognize the struggles its peoples face in American society [6]; and,

WHEREAS, as of the 1960s, during a time of increased inclusivity and demand for diversity, the first Asian American Studies program was created in San Francisco in 1968 [7]; and, as of 2004, the University of Florida became the first university in the Southeastern United States to have an Asian American Studies program [7]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American plight as a historically marginalized community in the United States and accredits their distinguished contributions to United States history.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the significant increase in the number of self-reported Asian American hate crimes across the US in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the merit and influence of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans at the University of Florida and in the United States in celebration of May, the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Farias, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, Director of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Affairs Jack Nguyen, Student Body President Trevor Pope, and Diversity Cabinet Chair Robyn Louis.

[1] <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

[2] <https://www.wisc.edu/APIDAHM/>

[3] <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

[4] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/uffacts/enrollment-1/>

[5] <https://www.ufisa.org/>

[6] <http://www.ufaasu.com/>

[7] <https://english.ufl.edu/programs/undergraduate-programs/asian-american-studies-minor/>