

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Indian Student Association’s Holi Event Programming

AUTHOR(S): Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Raj Mia

SPONSOR(S): Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Vivian Phung, Senator Hunter Monson, Volunteers for International Student Affairs Vice President of Internal Affairs Hana Ali, Pride Student Union President Jonathan C. Stephens, Indian Student Association Presidents Hansa Pasyavala and Darshna Bhatt, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Pakistani Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz

WHEREAS, Holi, also known as the ‘Festival of Colors,’ is one of the most widely celebrated Hindu spring festivals in India and across the globe [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Holi, traditionally held on the last full moon day of the last month of the Hindu calendar, celebrates the beginning of spring and highlights the love story between deities Krishna and Radha [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Holi holds a cultural significance in Hinduism of being a festival of unity, new beginnings, communal acceptance, and celebrates the triumph of good over evil [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the materials, mainly colored powders, are crucial to celebrating Holi, with red powder representing fertility, blue powder representing Lord Krishna and serenity, yellow powder representing happiness and the significance of turmeric in Indian culture, green powder representing new beginnings, etc. [4]; and,

WHEREAS, universities including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [5] and the University of Arkansas [6] celebrate Holi annually with the full support of their individual student governments; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Indian Students Association (ISA) began hosting its annual Holi celebration on campus in Spring 2013, when the University of Florida Student Government Multicultural Affairs Cabinet first endorsed the event with funding and resources [7]; and,

WHEREAS, the fourth iteration of ISA’s on-campus Holi celebration in 2017 brought together between 2,500 and 3,000 students and families for this important celebration, underscoring the event’s substantial attendance and profound significance within the Indian student community [8]; and,

WHEREAS, during the Student Organization Operational, Event, and Travel Requests process commencement on October 25, 2023, and subsequent biannual review of said requests for approval based on Title VIII statutes by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee in

November and December of 2023, the Indian Students Association faced challenges in acquiring the necessary funding for this pivotal community event programming; and,

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the University of Florida Student Government “to tirelessly advocat[e] on behalf of the student body, enhancing the entire student experience and promoting the image of the university and its students [...],” [9]; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing this mission, it is the solemn duty of the University of Florida Student Senate to ensure the unwavering support of the Indian Student Association and its Holi event programming; now,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commemorates the Indian Students Association’s Holi event programming, recognizing the profound impact the programming imparts on the university community; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate steadfastly endorses the allocation of Student Government reserve transfer funds to ensure the securement of the Indian Students Association’s Holi event programming for our university community.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Indian Student Association Presidents Darshna Bhatt and Hansa Pasyavala, Interim Director of Campus Engagement Justin Donnelly, Director/Finance Manager of Student Government Gary Bryant, Accounting Specialist of Student Government Kimberly Harrell, Fiscal Assistant I Anisa Isaac, Fiscal Assistant II Chris Burdsall, Assistant Director of Campus Events & Traditions Drew Baker, and Program Coordinator of Campus Events & Traditions Jeanine Ortiz.

[1]<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Holi-Hindu-festival> [2]<https://www.holifestival.org/legend-radha-krishna.html> [3]<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/facts-hindu-holi-festival> [4]<https://www.hfcc.edu/news/2021/holi-hindu-festival-colors#:~:text=Blue%20symbolizes%20Krishna%2C%20a%20Hindu,considered%20to%20have%20medicinal%20properties.>

[5]<https://www.unc.edu/discover/a-colorful-celebration-2/>

[6]<https://news.uark.edu/articles/64107/holi-2023-festival-of-colors-this-saturday-at-wilson-park>

[7]<https://www.wuft.org/news/2013/03/28/holi-celebration-brings-color-to-uf/>

[8]<https://www.wuft.org/news/2017/04/03/holi-festival-brings-color-to-uf-campus/>

[9]<https://sg.ufl.edu/about/>