

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1692

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating the Festival of Onam at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Senator Maya Idiculla

SPONSOR(S): Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, South Asian Caucus Chair Isha Khan, Indian Students Association Treasurer Johanna Moncy, Senate President Monish Vijayaraghavan, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Fahim Islam, Senator Kishan Nayak, Senator Alisha Patel, Senator Aditi Sarkar

WHEREAS, Onam is a significant cultural festival celebrated predominantly by the South Indian state of Kerala, marking the homecoming of the mythical King Mahabali and celebrating the harvest season with joy and unity [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Onam holds great cultural and spiritual significance, symbolizing the rich heritage and traditions of Kerala, and is a time when families and communities come together to partake in festive activities such as the grand feast known as Onasadya, traditional games, boat races, floral arrangements (Pookalam), and dance performances like Thiruvathira [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Onam is celebrated over ten days, starting with Atham, which marks the beginning of the festivities, and reaching its peak on Thiruvonam, the main day of the celebration. Atham signifies the start of the Onam season with various preparations, while Thiruvonam is the grand culmination, featuring feasts, traditional dances, and cultural events to honor the mythical King Mahabali [2] these dates fall between September 6th and September 15th this year, bringing together people of all backgrounds to share in the spirit of harmony, prosperity, and communal well-being; and,

WHEREAS, the Indian Students Association at the University of Florida, in recognition of the importance of cultural celebrations for the South Indian student community, is organizing its first-ever Onam event on September 9th, 2024, to provide students with the opportunity to celebrate this festival on campus, fostering a sense of belonging and cultural pride [3]; and,

WHEREAS, this celebration is a historic moment for the Indian Students Association and the South Indian student community at the University of Florida, reflecting the growing diversity and inclusivity within the campus community, and creating a platform for cultural exchange and understanding among all students [4]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida commemorates the inaugural celebration of Onam on campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida recognizes the Indian Students Association for its efforts in organizing this important cultural event, providing a meaningful opportunity for South Indian students to celebrate and share their heritage with the broader University community.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Co-Presidents of Indian Students Association Ansh Parikh and Tej Patel and the Co-Presidents of Asian American Student Union Julia Guerreo and Amy Guo

[1] <https://thebetterindia.com/113931/10-days-onam-pookalams-onasadhya-heres-need-know/>

[2] <https://www.hindustantimes.com/art-and-culture/onam-2020-history-significance-and-other-details-of-the-harvest-festival/story-RiptwBJl485ScfFAf17oTN.html>

[3] <https://isaatuf.wixsite.com/2024>

[4] <https://webmasteraasu.wixsite.com/asian-american-stude>



10/2/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date