



## H.RES. 1153 - CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Res. 1153 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI) on April 24, 2008. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved the resolution, as amended, by voice vote on May 15, 2008.

H.Res. 1153 is expected to be considered by House of Representatives on May 19, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Res. 1153 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes that the incredible diversity of different racial and ethnic groups, including Asian American and Pacific Islander, is a source of strength for the United States;
- Recognizes that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is influential and crucial to the society and culture of the United States;
- Reaffirms its commitment to the goals and ideals of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and
- Celebrates the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States.

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### BACKGROUND

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Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated annually each May to commemorate the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States and to recognize their significance to American society and culture. The month of May was chosen because of the significance of two historical events: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants into the U.S. in May 1843 and the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in May 1869.

According to the Census Bureau, there are an estimated 14 million U.S. residents who trace their ethnic heritage to Asia or the Pacific Islands.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Shea Loper at (202) 226-2302.