
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Jim Beall, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No:	ACR 112	Hearing Date:	8/4/2020
Author:	Bigelow		
Version:	7/30/2020 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Amy Gilson		

SUBJECT: Chiura Obata Great Nature Memorial Highway

DIGEST: This resolution designates a portion of State Route 120 in the County of Mono as the Chiura Obata Great Nature Memorial Highway.

ANALYSIS:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway or structure is located.
- 2) The person being honored must be deceased.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- 7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution designates the portion of State Route 120 in the County of Mono as the Chiura Obata Great Nature Memorial Highway. It requests that the Department of Transportation to erect appropriate signs upon receiving sufficient donations from non-state sources to cover the costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose.* According to the author, “This measure is a tremendous opportunity to honor a painter known for his beautiful artwork of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Recognizing him with a highway memorial resolution on Highway 120 will provide those who honor his memory the chance to do so as they enter a part of the state that he loved very much.”

- 2) *Background.* Chiura Obata was a painter, born on November 18, 1885 in Japan. Japan. In 1903, Obata immigrated to the United States, settling in San Francisco where he cofounded the East West Art Society to promote a uniting of Asian and Western art traditions. While incarcerated at the Topaz War Relocation Center during World War 2, he was able to create an art school with over 600 students. After the war, Obata continued to visit Yosemite and the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains to paint his landscapes. From 1955 to 1970, until he was 85 years of age, Obata traveled throughout California, giving lectures and demonstrations on Japanese brush painting and in 1965, in Japan, Obata received the Emperor’s Award, the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class, in recognition of his efforts to spread cultural understanding.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Monday, July 27.)

SUPPORT:

Multiple Individuals

OPPOSITION:

None received.