

Date of Hearing: August 21, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Blanca Pacheco, Chair

ACR 110 (Tangipa) – As Introduced August 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Tongan Culture and Language Week.

SUMMARY: Designates the week of August 18, 2025, to August 24, 2025, inclusive, as Tongan Culture and Language Week; and, encourages all Californians to learn about, uplift, and celebrate the history, language, and vibrant traditions of the Tongan people. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The people of Tonga have maintained a proud and resilient cultural heritage that dates back over 3,000 years to the Lapita navigators, Austronesian seafarers whose sophisticated maritime skills and craftsmanship laid the foundation for Polynesian civilization.
- 2) Tonga is the only Pacific Island nation never formally colonized, preserving an unbroken line of monarchy and a deeply rooted system of cultural values, traditional arts, and oral history, all of which continue to shape the identity of Tongans worldwide.
- 3) The Tongan language (Lea Faka-Tonga) remains a living testimony to the enduring legacy of the Tongan people, with formal, honorific, and regal registers reflecting the nation's structured and respectful social hierarchy.
- 4) Tongan culture is expressed through unique forms of dance, music, clothing, and art, including the lakalaka, tau'olunga, ngatu (tapa cloth), and ta'ovala, and through values such as faka'apa'apa (respect), lototo'o (humility), and tauhi vā (nurturing relationships).
- 5) California is home to one of the largest Tongan populations in the United States, particularly in communities such as the Cities of East Palo Alto, Fresno, Oakland, Inglewood, and Sacramento, where Tongan Americans continue to contribute to the cultural, economic, educational, and civic life of the state.
- 6) Tongan Culture and Language Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich traditions and linguistic heritage of Tonga, honor the contributions of Tongan Americans, and promote cultural understanding and pride among younger generations.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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