

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 110 (Tangipa)

As Introduced August 18, 2025

Majority vote

**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.

**Major Provisions**

- 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.

**COMMENTS****According to the Author**

As the first Tongan elected to the California State Legislature, it is an honor to introduce this resolution recognizing Tongan Culture and Language Week. This measure uplifts the proud heritage of the Tongan people. As the last remaining Pacific monarchy, who has maintained sovereignty and fought all versions of colonial expansion, our history of resilience, cultural traditions, and strong values continue to enrich communities across California. With one of the largest Tongan populations in the nation, our state is home to families who contribute daily to our cultural, civic, and economic life. By designating this week, we ensure that future

generations carry forward the language, arts, and values that define our identity, while inviting all Californians to celebrate and learn from the vibrant legacy of Tonga.

**Arguments in Support**

None on file

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**VOTES****ASM RULES: 11-0-0**

**YES:** Pacheco, Lackey, Ahrens, Flora, Mark González, Irwin, Krell, Patel, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Zbur

**UPDATED**

VERSION: August 18, 2025

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