

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
ACR 207 (Kalra) – As Introduced May 18, 2026

**SUBJECT:** California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates the month of October 2026 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and, seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) There is estimated to be more than one billion Hindus worldwide, and approximately 3.04 million Hindu Americans live across the nation. California is home to one of the largest Hindu American population in the United States.
- 2) Hindu Americans in California represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent.
- 3) California and our nation have greatly benefited from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community service.
- 4) Hindu Americans have greatly enriched California's higher education university systems by teaching numerous students, especially in the academic fields of astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science, psychology, and neuroscience.
- 5) Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founding several of its early startups. Hindu Americans are estimated to be employed in 40 percent of startups in Silicon Valley.
- 6) Hindu Americans now serve in various levels of government across the state and nation, including four Members in the United States House of Representatives.
- 7) Ahimsa, which is the Sanskrit word for non-injury or non-violence, is a central principle for Hindu Americans in California, and it provides the ethical foundation for vegetarianism, environmentalism, and harmonious living.
- 8) Despite their positive contributions to California and this nation, Hindu Americans face stereotypes and misconceptions about their heritage and have been the targets of bullying, discrimination, hate speech, and bias-motivated crimes.
- 9) The Legislature condemns all hate crimes and bias incidents against Hindu Americans, Hindu temples and centers, and places of significance to the Hindu American community.
- 10) Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs and respect the diversity of all faiths.

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

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800