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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JUNE TO BE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND CELEBRATING THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS
CARIBBEAN AMERICANS HAVE MADE TO THE UNITED STATES

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi,
Henries, Morales, Shallcross Smith, Perez, Cassar, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: June 22, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Caribbean American Heritage Month has been celebrated annually in June
2 with proclamations from the President of the United States and the United States Congress
3 honoring the extraordinary achievements and contributions Caribbean immigrants and their
4 descendants have made to the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, People of Caribbean heritage are found throughout the United States in
6 every state and as of 2018, approximately 13.2 million people, with most coming from Puerto
7 Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, the Bahamas
8 and the United States Virgin Islands; and

9 WHEREAS, Immigrants from the Caribbean first arrived in the American Colonies in
10 1619, when indentured servants were brought to Jamestown, Virginia. Throughout the 17th, 18th
11 and 19th centuries, many enslaved people were brought to the Americas from Africa; and

12 WHEREAS, Immigrants from the Caribbean have enriched the United States in all walks
13 of life, from the arts and music to journalism, literature, athletics, fashion, the sciences, the
14 culinary industry, the military and a wide array of other fields of importance to our nation; and

15 WHEREAS, The list of notable and influential Caribbean Americans is far too large to
16 list, but of particular prominence are Vice President Kamala Harris, Supreme Court Justice Sonia
17 Sotomayor, Secretary of State General Colin Powell, Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton,
18 noted journalist Malcolm Gladwell, the first African American Attorney General Eric Holder,
19 celebrated actors Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, baseball superstar Roberto Clemente, and

1 Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Congresswoman, and first African American
2 woman candidate for President; and

3 WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have played an active and important role in our
4 nation's history, most significantly in the quest for social, racial, economic and environmental
5 justice for all Americans and all of humanity; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
7 proclaims June to be Caribbean American Heritage Month in the State of Rhode Island and
8 celebrates the immense contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the United States; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Claire Alicia Nelson, Ph.D., Institute of
12 Caribbean Studies.

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