

SB 5000 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to designate a
4 time of year to formally remember and recognize the contributions of
5 Chinese Americans and finds that January of each year is a relevant
6 and appropriate time for such recognition. The legislature finds that
7 the California gold rush began on January 24, 1848, which brought
8 thousands of people to the area, approximately 30 percent of whom
9 were Chinese immigrants. With the immigration to the west as a result
10 of the gold rush, Washington became home to many Chinese immigrants.
11 Chinese immigrants contributed greatly to Washington's economy as
12 miners and workers in the salmon canning industry. The Chinese
13 population in Washington also grew when construction of the Northern
14 Pacific Railroad transcontinental line began in 1871, which ran from
15 Wisconsin and Minnesota to Washington and Oregon, as many laborers
16 who were recruited to work on the railroad were Chinese.

17 The legislature also finds that designating January of each year
18 as a time to recognize the contributions of Chinese Americans is
19 relevant in acknowledging the contributions of notable early Chinese
20 settlers. Goon Dip was well known as a visionary, philanthropist, and
21 entrepreneur, and is said to be the most influential Chinese
22 immigrant in the Pacific Coast during the early 20th century. Goon
23 Dip created a garment industry in Portland, Oregon where he taught
24 Chinese men who were disabled and unable to perform manual labor how
25 to sew. Goon Dip later expanded his business ventures to Seattle when
26 in January 1909, the Chinese government appointed him as honorary
27 consul for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Washington's first
28 world's fair, held in Seattle. Anticipating large crowds for the
29 fair, Goon Dip built the Milwaukee Hotel at 662 King Street, which
30 would house hundreds of tourists. Goon Dip was also influential in
31 persuading Chinese businessmen to move Chinatown away from the
32 Elliott Bay tidelands to the area around the new King Street Station

1 at 2nd Avenue and Jackson Street. After his role as honorary consul
2 during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Goon Dip was named
3 permanent consul and served under both the Manchu dynasty and the
4 Kuomintang. Goon Dip died on September 12, 1933, at the Milwaukee
5 Hotel and is buried in the family plot in Lake View cemetery in
6 Seattle. January is also the birth month of notable contemporary
7 Chinese Americans in the state, including Gary Locke, who graduated
8 from Seattle's Franklin High School and was the first Chinese
9 American elected as Governor in the continental United States, the
10 first Chinese American Secretary of Commerce, and the first Chinese
11 American ambassador to China.

12 The legislature finds that these and other contributions to the
13 state's rich history and economy by Chinese Americans is worthy of
14 recognition and celebration. The legislature further finds that
15 teaching this history in schools will help to commemorate the
16 important achievements of Chinese Americans.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.117
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) January of each year will be known as Chinese American
20 history month. Each January is designated as a time for people of
21 this state to commemorate the contributions of Chinese Americans to
22 the history and heritage of Washington state and the United States.

23 (2) Public schools are encouraged to designate time for
24 appropriate activities in commemoration of Chinese American history
25 month and the lives, history, achievements, and contributions of
26 Chinese Americans."

27 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Designates January as Chinese American History Month,
rather than Americans of Chinese Descent History Month, to
commemorate the contributions of Chinese Americans.

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