

1 [Commending the California State Assembly - House Resolution No. 77 (Muratsuchi) -
2 Apology for World War II Japanese American Internment Camps]

3 **Resolution commending the California State Assembly for passing House Resolution**
4 **No. 77, authored by Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, issuing a formal apology to all**
5 **Americans of Japanese ancestry for the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of**
6 **Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps.**

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8 WHEREAS, Discriminatory laws rooted in xenophobia previously enacted on the State
9 and Federal levels created undue hardships and restrictions on civil right; and

10 WHEREAS, The California Legislature passed the 1913 Alien Land Law barring
11 immigrants of Japanese descent from owning land; and

12 WHEREAS, As the largest and oldest Japantown (known as Nihonmachi) in the
13 country, San Francisco's Japantown was a thriving community, home to thousands of
14 Japanese American families, small businesses as well as cultural and religious institutions;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive
17 Order No. 9066 (EO9066) that authorized the incarcerations of 120,000 people of Japanese
18 ancestry to internment camps during World War II; and

19 WHEREAS, EO9066 forcibly uprooted the lives of more than 120,000 Americans and
20 residents of Japanese ancestry, disrupting educations and careers, causing the loss of their
21 homes, businesses, farms, and livelihoods; and

22 WHEREAS, The California Assembly had previously approved legislation against
23 Japanese Americans and, shortly after Pearl Harbor, had approved Senate Concurrent
24 Resolution 15 (1942), questioning the loyalty of Japanese Americans and those holding dual
25 citizenship; and

1 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 requested that the State Personnel
2 Board dismiss state employees who “may be proved to be disloyal to the United States of
3 America in this present war”; and

4 WHEREAS, During the next legislative session in 1943, the Assembly approved
5 Senate Joint Resolution 3, on a 60-5 vote, urging Congress to determine the identity of those
6 holding dual citizenship in the United States and Japan and to forfeit their citizenship and
7 prevent them from becoming American citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, The Assembly approved Senate Joint Resolution 21 (1943) on a 52-0
9 vote, urging Congress to release “implements and commodities” owned by incarcerated
10 Japanese Americans for use by other Americans during World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme Court decisions
12 upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for
13 violations of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, in the case of Korematsu, and curfew in the
14 cases of Yasui and Hirabayashi, all authorized pursuant to EO9066, it was discovered that
15 officials from the United States Department of War and the United States Department of
16 Justice had altered, destroyed, and withheld information that testified to the loyalty of the
17 people of Japanese ancestry from the United States Supreme Court; and

18 WHEREAS, On May 24, 2011, Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal said World War II
19 Solicitor General Charles Fahy, who represented the United States Department of Justice in
20 the Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi cases, “acted dishonorably” by withholding relevant
21 information; and

22 WHEREAS, Many attorneys and interns contributed innumerable hours to win a
23 reversal of the original convictions of Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a
24 petition for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental errors and injustice
25 occurred; and

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on behalf of the people
2 of the United States for the forced exclusion, mass removal, and incarceration of Americans
3 and permanent residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II, and provided restitution
4 to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated; and

5 WHEREAS, Remembrance of the moral, social and legal injustices stemming from this
6 dark chapter in our history is essential for ensuring future generations do not repeat the
7 mistake; and

8 WHEREAS, On February 20, 2020, the Assembly of the State of California
9 unanimously passed House Resolution No. 77 (HR77), issuing a formal apology to all
10 Americans of Japanese ancestry for its past actions in support of the unjust exclusion,
11 removal, and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and for its failure to
12 support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans during this period;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 appreciate and commend Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi and the California Assembly for
16 the passage of HR77; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco affirms its commitment to protecting the civil rights and liberties of all communities.

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