

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 66**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Honda**

April 20, 1998

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 66—Relative to redress for World War II Japanese Latin American internees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 66, as introduced, Honda. Redress for World War II Japanese Latin American internees.

This measure would support the granting of an official apology and restitution to World War II Japanese Latin American internees pursuant to federal law.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, During World War II, the United States  
2 government orchestrated, financed, and directed the  
3 mass arrest and deportation of 2,264 men, women, and  
4 children of Japanese ancestry from various Latin  
5 American countries to United States internment camps,  
6 according to a 1983 Congressional report; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States government carried out  
8 this program to use these civilians in prisoner exchanges  
9 for Americans held by the Japanese during the war; and

10 WHEREAS, Twelve Latin American  
11 governments--Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the  
12 Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala,  
13 Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and  
14 Peru--supported this mass arrest and deportation; and



1 WHEREAS, In violation of basic human rights, the  
2 United States abducted those persons without charges,  
3 hearings, or any kind of due process and forcibly  
4 transported them to Immigration and Naturalization  
5 Service detention facilities in a country and culture  
6 foreign to them, far away from their homes; and

7 WHEREAS, Over 860 Japanese Latin Americans were  
8 sent to Japan in prisoner-of-war exchanges, while about  
9 1,400 remained incarcerated in United States internment  
10 camps until the end of the war; and

11 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of  
12 1988 (50 U.S.C. Sec. 1989 et seq.), which provided an  
13 official apology and restitution to Japanese American  
14 internees; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice  
16 has interpreted the act to bar Japanese Latin Americans  
17 from being eligible for redress because they were not  
18 United States citizens or legal permanent residents at the  
19 time of the war; and

20 WHEREAS, The Japanese Latin American internees  
21 and their families seek the same official apology and  
22 restitution provided the Japanese American internees;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Japanese Latin American internees  
25 and their families seek the United States government's  
26 acknowledgment of this tragic and largely unknown  
27 experience; and

28 WHEREAS, A federal class action lawsuit was filed on  
29 August 28, 1996, challenging the denial of redress to the  
30 Japanese Latin American internees and their families  
31 under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; and

32 WHEREAS, More than 80 Members of Congress from  
33 across the country have publicly expressed their support  
34 for redress for the Japanese Latin American internees;  
35 now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*  
37 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of  
38 California supports the granting of an official apology and  
39 restitution to World War II Japanese Latin American  
40 internees pursuant to federal law; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and  
3 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and  
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the  
6 United States.

O

