

SENATE RESOLUTION

8623

By Senators Fortunato, Hasegawa, Torres, and Wagoner

1 WHEREAS, This resolution is being made to recognize the
2 historical and ongoing relationship between the United States and the
3 Republic of the Marshall Islands, to honor the contributions of the
4 Marshallese community in Washington state, and to reaffirm our
5 commitment to supporting their well-being and prosperity, both here
6 and in their homeland; and

7 WHEREAS, The Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United
8 States share a deep and complex history rooted in both military and
9 cultural ties that continue to shape our relationship today; and

10 WHEREAS, Operation Flintlock, the largest amphibious assault of
11 World War II at the time, marked the invasion and subsequent
12 liberation of the Marshall Islands from imperial Japanese forces in
13 1944. This swift and efficient operation not only demonstrated the
14 effectiveness of the United States Marine Corps, but also played a
15 critical role in accelerating the allied victory in the pacific; and

16 WHEREAS, The liberation of Kwajalein Atoll holds profound
17 significance for the Marshallese people, symbolizing freedom and
18 resilience. The event is commemorated annually by the Kwajalein
19 people, as a part of Kwajalein Kamolol Day (Liberation Day),
20 celebrating the enduring spirit of the Marshallese community and
21 honoring the sacrifices made during the war; and

22 WHEREAS, The historical relationship between the United States
23 and the Republic of the Marshall Islands culminated in the compact of

1 free association (COFA), joined by two other nations and signed
2 in 1983, which established a framework for cooperation in areas
3 such as defense, economic assistance, and immigration; and

4 WHEREAS, The compact of free association has allowed
5 citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Island to live, work,
6 and serve in the United States without a visa, contributing
7 significantly to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of
8 communities across the country, including many counties in
9 Washington state; and

10 WHEREAS, Marshallese citizens have demonstrated
11 extraordinary commitment to the United States through high rates
12 of service in the United States armed forces, exemplifying the
13 deep bonds of kinship and mutual respect between our nations;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
16 are renowned for their resilience, cultural richness, and
17 exceptional skills as navigators, voyagers, and artisans,
18 preserving and celebrating their heritage even in the face of
19 historical adversity; and

20 WHEREAS, Washington state is home to a vibrant and thriving
21 Marshallese community, whose contributions enhance the diversity
22 and strength of our state; and

23 WHEREAS, The historical link between Washington state and
24 the Republic of the Marshall Islands is strengthened by our
25 shared history and longstanding relationship, underscoring the
26 importance of ongoing collaboration to address the lasting
27 impacts of nuclear testing and to support the well-being of
28 Marshallese communities;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state
30 Senate acknowledge the enduring special friendship and special
31 partnership between the United States and the Republic of the
32 Marshall Islands, and reaffirm the importance of the compact of
33 free association as the cornerstone of this relationship; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate
35 stand in support of the Marshallese community members residing
36 in Washington state, recognizing their invaluable contributions
37 to our society and their efforts to achieve equity and access to
38 essential services; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate
2 pause to remember the significance of March 1st as nuclear
3 victims Remembrance Day as a message of thankfulness, honoring
4 the strength and perseverance of the people of the Republic of
5 the Marshall Islands, and the enduring bonds of friendship
6 between our nations; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
8 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
9 Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

10 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
11 do hereby certify that this is a true and
12 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8623,
13 adopted by the Senate
14 March 3, 2025

15 SARAH BANNISTER
16 Secretary of the Senate