

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2888-09/AA/FGA (Rev)  
April 10, 2009

**Support for Honoring Alumni Interned by Federal Executive Order 9066**

- RESOLVED: The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) strongly urge campuses to seek out and honor those alumni who as a result of their relocation and internment under Federal Executive Order 9066 were unable to complete their degrees; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU strongly urge the faculty of those CSU campuses with alumni whose academic lives were disrupted by Federal Executive Order 9066 to consider honoring such alumni with honorary degrees, ceremonies of acknowledgment, and/or other appropriate recognition for the unique forms of patriotism demonstrated by these citizens; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU send copies of this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Board of Governors, Academic Senate of the University of California, and Academic Senate for the California Community College System, Assemblyman Furutani, Assembly Higher Education Committee and Legislative leadership.

*RATIONALE: It is now recognized that Federal Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, was an outrageous violation of the civil rights of American citizens and legal residents. Americans of Japanese descent who were living near the west coast were the dominant group affected by the relocation and internment that resulted from the order. A significant number (~247) of these citizens were students at campuses that are now part of the California State University (Fresno, San Diego, San Francisco, and San José.) The disruption of the academic efforts of these students was just one of many interruptions suffered by these individuals and their families during the war and the years that followed. It is very appropriate that the CSU campuses seek out these alumni and to find ways to honor the sacrifices and contributions of these former students. And it is appropriate that the faculty of these campuses work to honor these individuals and their families with appropriate honorary degrees, such as honorary doctorates. Legislation with similar purposes has passed in such states as Oregon and Washington.*

**Approved Unanimously– May 7-8, 2009**

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 37**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Furutani**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Brownley, Chesbro,**  
**De Leon, Eng, Hayashi, Jones, Lieu, Ma, Monning, John A. Perez,**  
**Portantino, Salas, and ~~Torrico~~ Torrico, and Yamada)**  
(Coauthors: Senators DeSaulnier, Liu, and Lowenthal)

December 1, 2008

---

---

An act to add Section 66020 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 37, as amended, Furutani. Public postsecondary education: honorary degrees.

Under existing law, the segments of the public postsecondary education system in the state include the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California, the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University, and the California Community Colleges, which are administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes these educational institutions to award various types of degrees.

This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and would request the Regents of the University of California, to *work*

*with their respective colleges and universities to confer an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was forced to leave his or her postsecondary studies as a result of federal Executive Order 9066 which caused the incarceration of individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:
- 3 (1) On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
4 issued Executive Order 9066, which caused the incarceration of  
5 approximately 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese  
6 ancestry in camps scattered throughout the United States during  
7 World War II.
- 8 (2) Executive Order 9066 put the lives of these individuals, who  
9 were forcibly relocated from their homes and communities and  
10 unjustly detained by the United States government, on hold.
- 11 (3) On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson Reagan signed  
12 into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, declaring that Executive  
13 Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and hence was  
14 caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political  
15 leadership.
- 16 (4) The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on behalf of the  
17 people of the United States for the evacuation, relocation, and  
18 incarceration of Americans and permanent resident aliens of  
19 Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for the  
20 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were  
21 incarcerated.
- 22 (5) The disruption of over 2,500 students' educational pursuits  
23 was among the consequences of the country's wartime policy,  
24 which removed students enrolled in California's colleges and  
25 universities from their studies.
- 26 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that postsecondary  
27 educational institutions confer an honorary degree upon each  
28 individual whose studies at a postsecondary educational institution  
29 were disrupted by Executive Order 9066, and to allow a

1 representative to accept an honorary degree on behalf of individuals  
2 who are deceased.

3 SEC. 2. Section 66020 is added to the Education Code, to read:

4 66020. (a) The Trustees of the California State University and  
5 the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges  
6 shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested  
7 to, *work with their respective colleges and universities to confer*  
8 an honorary degree upon each person, living or deceased, who was  
9 forced to leave his or her studies at the public postsecondary  
10 educational institution in which that person was enrolled as a result  
11 of the issuance of federal Executive Order 9066 on February 19,  
12 1942, which caused the evacuation, relocation, and incarceration  
13 of individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

14 (b) In cases where an honorary degree is conferred upon a person  
15 who is deceased, the person's surviving next of kin, or another  
16 representative chosen by the person's surviving next of kin, may  
17 accept the honorary degree on the deceased person's behalf.

18 (c) Independent colleges and universities, as defined in  
19 subdivision (b) of Section 66010, are urged to comply with the  
20 terms of this section.