

SENATE RESOLUTION

8686

By Senator Hasegawa

1 WHEREAS, In 1990, Herbert Tsuchiya, a retired pharmacist and
2 long-time community activist; Bertha Lung Tsuchiya, his wife; and Sam
3 Mitsui, a member of the highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team
4 during World War II, decided to take community ownership of the issue
5 of hunger by organizing a fund-raising walk to help the Asian
6 Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) Food Bank provide rice and
7 other culturally familiar foods to the most vulnerable among us,
8 including Asians, Pacific Islanders, and others in need; and

9 WHEREAS, 25 years ago, Herb and Sam organized the first *Walk for*
10 *Rice* at the Chinese Baptist Church in Beacon Hill under the
11 sponsorship of the Blaine Methodist Church, Chinese Baptist Church,
12 and Japanese Baptist Church, in which 45 participants raised \$1,800
13 towards ending hunger in their community; and

14 WHEREAS, For 25 consecutive years, Sam and Herb have dedicated
15 themselves to the issue of hunger by organizing, walking, and running
16 in *Walk for Rice*, which in 2014 had over 1,000 participants and
17 raised a record high of \$274,538 in donations; and

18 WHEREAS, Each year at *Walk for Rice*, the community gathers to
19 honor the legacy Sam, Herb, and Bertha created by coming together to
20 fight hunger in our communities and support the ACRS Food Bank; and

21 WHEREAS, Through the ongoing efforts of Herb and Sam, *Walk for*
22 *Rice* has helped the ACRS Food Bank distribute over 969,801 pounds of

1 food to 5,665 families that visit the food bank over 120,000 times
2 annually; and

3 WHEREAS, Herb and Sam, with many others, continue to support
4 ACRS, *Walk for Rice*, and other organizations and projects that enrich
5 and strengthen our community;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
7 honor and celebrate the achievements and impact of Herb Tsuchiya's
8 and Sam Mitsui's many contributions to our community; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
10 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Herb
11 Tsuchiya, Sam Mitsui, and the Asian Counseling and Referral Service,
12 for further distribution to the community.

--- END ---