

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

March 6, 2024

**Proclaim the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Latina History Day and Recognize Hispanas Organized for Political Equality**

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) enters its 35<sup>th</sup> year advancing political and economy parity for Latinas through their developed women's leadership and advocacy programming within the areas of education, healthcare, economic empowerment, civic participation, and gender and racial/ethnic justice. HOPE prepares and supports Latinas as civic leaders, advocates for policy changes that champion equity for Latinas, and educates the public on the experiences and contributions of Latinas.

For 35 years, HOPE's innovative programming has served more than 65,000 Latinas through their programming which are tailored to different sectors of our community – from high school students, to college students, to recent grads, and to professionals. The HOPE Youth Leadership Program has prepared 558 low-income, first-generation, high school-age Latinas prepare for college and learn to advocate for their communities alongside peers and mentors who support them in achieving their

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personal goals, academic goals, and financial self-sufficiency. The HOPE College Leadership Program has created a network for 458 first-generation Latina college students and recent grads. The HOPE Leadership Institute is the first and only statewide leadership program specifically designed for professional Latinas in California and has trained 713 Latinas in vital leadership and advocacy skills, enabling them to create fundamental change within their local neighborhoods and across California. The HOPE Binational Fellowship has served 63 Latina executives from the United States and Mexico to catapult their leadership onto the national and global stage.

In addition, HOPE's educational events bring Latinas together to advocate, celebrate, and learn, strengthening community ties and reminding each other that all can be achieved when we work together. This includes the Latina History Day held annually to recognize and celebrate the historic and current achievements of Latinas during Women's History Month, while embracing the rich diversity of the Latina experience. From high school students to professionals, all take part in forums and workshops on career advancement, current community issues, and financial empowerment. This year marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> Latina History Day, and focuses on its theme "Soar: Reach New Heights", encouraging participants to take flight and pursue boundless opportunities in their journey to achieve their biggest dreams.

Latina entrepreneurs are a key economic engine for California, with more than 20,943 Latina-owned businesses<sup>1</sup>, more than 3.3 million Latina workers in California<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://women.ca.gov/latino-community-foundation/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/5-facts-latina-workers-ca/#:~:text=1.,Latina%20workers%20in%20the%20state.>

and generating \$26 billion in revenues<sup>3</sup>. Latina-owned businesses fill gaps and serve community needs. Their ability to provide culturally relevant services gives them a competitive edge in meeting the demands of a Latinx market with a purchasing power of more than \$3 trillion<sup>4</sup>.

Latinas are being elected to public office and appointed to powerful positions. To date, 97% of HOPE Alumnae have served on government appointed Board or Commissions and 400 have served on over 1,800 non-profit boards. I had the honor to serve as a member of HOPE's Board of Directors for more than a decade. Together we worked on expanding programming to support more Latina leaders. When I was a State Senator, I co-founded HOPE's first ever Latinas Action Day in Sacramento in 1995. The advocacy day convened over 400 Latinas from across California to our State Capitol to advocate for the advancement of Latinas in all aspects of civic life, engage in the legislative session, and facilitate dialogues on critical issues such as access to healthcare, higher education, and the California state budget. In Los Angeles County, we celebrate Latinas who continue to build upon the betterment of future generations.

HOPE has established itself by the principle that knowledge of Latinas' historical contributions to our society coupled with knowledge of the political process will guarantee a more representative, democratic government. As such, proclaiming Latina History Day during "Women's History Month" emphasizes the important role Latinas play in the County and our society.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim March 8, 2024 as

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<sup>3</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/10-facts-latino-biz-ca/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/us-latinos-have-fifth-largest-gdp-in-world>

the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Latina History Day and recognize Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) for their dedicated service for 35 years to Latinas in Los Angeles County.

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AGN. NO.