RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REPEAL OF ALIEN LAND LAW PROVISIONS FROM FLORIDA CONSTITUTION
Passed April 18, 2004

WHEREAS The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) is a national civil rights advocacy and educational organization; and

WHEREAS OCA has always fought against racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS The 1790 Naturalization Act limited the privilege of naturalization only to “free white persons” (in 1790) and “persons of African nativity or descent” (in 1870); and

WHEREAS Under the 1790 Naturalization Act, Asian immigrants were classified as “aliens ineligible for citizenship” until 1952; and

WHEREAS The State of California passed the first “Alien Land Law” in 1913, prohibiting “aliens ineligible for citizenship” from owning real property; and

WHEREAS The State of Florida adopted similar provisions in its constitution in 1926; and

WHEREAS Alien land laws were found unconstitutional and repealed in California and other states except for Florida and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS Joint Florida House Bill HJR – 657 (Relating to Real Property Ownership/Noncitizens) was submitted by state representative Phillip Brutus to repeal the Florida constitutional provisions and was passed through the Florida House Judiciary Committee and House Procedure Committee; and

WHEREAS Joint Florida State Senate Bill SJR – 566 (Relating to Basic Rights/State Constitution) was submitted by state senator Steven Geller to repeal the Florida constitutional provisions and has to pass through the Florida Senate; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCA commends the members of the Florida House Judiciary Committee and House Procedure Committee for supporting the repeal of Florida’s alien land law provisions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OCA supports current efforts to repeal alien land law provisions in the Florida constitution; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OCA encourages all OCA members to communicate their views regarding these bills to appropriate officials.