

Senate Resolution 1009

By: Senators Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Harper of the 7th, Williams of the 19th and Watson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Library of Congress and the Association of Cultural
2 Equity; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Library of Congress and the Association of Cultural Equity are both national
4 organizations that for over 75 years have dedicated staff, funds, and archival space to make
5 available to the public the treasures of Georgia heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, their partnership to create digital recordings of interviews with the Georgia Sea
7 Island Singers, a group of African Americans who travel the world to share the Gullah
8 culture of the Georgia coastal islands, has made it possible for anyone to learn about coastal
9 Georgia heritage and Southern black oral traditions online; and

10 WHEREAS, they have partnered to preserve and display the original works of Mr. Alan
11 Lomax, the founder of the Association of Cultural Equity who worked diligently to document
12 the world's most expressive cultural traditions, including those of coastal Georgians and the
13 Georgia Sea Island Singers; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lomax visited St. Simons Island in 1935 to record and preserve the
15 performances of the Spiritual Singers Society of Coastal Georgia, the group that would later
16 become the Georgia Sea Island Singers; and

17 WHEREAS, he returned to St. Simons Island during the Civil Rights Era and recorded the
18 works of Ms. Bessie Jones, the most accomplished of the Georgia Sea Island Singers, for
19 preservation in the Library of Congress; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Lomax worked with the Georgia Sea Island Singers not only to preserve
21 Southern black oral traditions but also to teach songs, plays, and folklore to children and
22 adults across the country; and

23 WHEREAS, the Library of Congress and the Association of Cultural Equity have been
24 indispensable in ensuring that the Georgia Sea Island Singers are celebrated as part of
25 American history and that the oppression and maltreatment of African slaves is not soon
26 forgotten.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize and commend the Library of Congress and the Association of Cultural Equity for
29 their many accomplishments and wish them both many more years of success.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Library of
32 Congress and the Association of Cultural Equity.