

House Resolution 1089

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Thomas of the 39th, Williams of the 168th, Smyre of the 135th, and Beverly of the 143rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Designating March 8-15, 2022, as HBCU Week; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were founded with the
3 purpose of providing higher education for many African Americans who were once
4 unwelcome at public and private institutions of higher education; and
- 5 WHEREAS, there are 107 HBCUs across the United States, ten of which are located in
6 Georgia: Albany State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University,
7 Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of
8 Medicine, Morris Brown College, Paine College, Savannah State University, and Spelman
9 College; and
- 10 WHEREAS, established in 1890, Savannah State University is the oldest public HBCU in
11 Georgia and the first institution of higher learning in the City of Savannah; and
- 12 WHEREAS, HBCUs continue to benefit African American students, owing to lower tuition
13 rates, a thriving community, and a higher number of STEM graduates, with over 25 percent
14 of African Americans earning their degrees from an HBCU; and

15 WHEREAS, there are numerous notable alumni from HBCUs, among them Spike Lee,
16 Marquette King Jr., Keshia Knight Pulliam, James A. Sills III, Shannon Sharpe, Jacque Reid,
17 Samuel L. Jackson, Dean Calvin Smyre, Thomas W. Dortch, Otis Moss Jr., Jacquelyn Grant,
18 Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson Jr., Bishop Charles Edward Blake Sr., Ambassador
19 Charles R. Stith, Sommore, Charles W. Chappelle, Melody Maddox, Beverly Harvard,
20 Derrick Boazman, William Simmons, Walter E. Gaskin Sr., Rear Admiral Annie Andrews,
21 Pinky Cole, Stacey Lee Spratt, Kristen Dauss, Joy Baker, Carl Hill, Bonnie Simpson-Mason,
22 Terrance Jones, Regina Benjamin, Monique C. Surles-Zeigler , James D. Lock, Anne H.
23 Gaglioti, Jennifer Harper, and Heval Mohamed Kelli; and

24 WHEREAS, HBCUs have also produced African American leaders in every field, including
25 Civil Rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr., Maynard Jackson, and Hosea L. Williams;
26 NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson; Marian Wright Edelman, who founded the
27 Children's Defense Fund; Microsoft chairman John Thompson, and songwriter James
28 Weldon Johnson, who wrote "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"; and

29 WHEREAS, individuals who attend HBCUs are surrounded by people with similar
30 backgrounds, creating a space of comfort and support for students and faculty; and

31 WHEREAS, HBCUs are economic engines in their Georgia communities and beyond,
32 producing more than \$1.3 billion in revenues and over 12,000 jobs; and

33 WHEREAS, HBCUs will continue to serve a vital function within the community by
34 educating minorities and by fostering a sense of belonging on campus; and

35 WHEREAS, March 8-15 will be known annually in the State of Georgia as Georgia HBCU
36 Week.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body join in designating March 8-15, 2022, as Georgia HBCU Week.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 public and the press.