

1 [Japantown YWCA resolution]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) to**  
4 **acknowledge the existence of, and honor, an agreement made between the San**  
5 **Francisco YWCA and the Soko Bukai which placed the Japantown YWCA building**  
6 **located at 1830 Sutter Street in the trust of the San Francisco YWCA on behalf of the**  
7 **churches that make up the Soko Bukai.**

8  
9 WHEREAS, The Japantown YWCA building is located at 1830 Sutter Street in the  
10 heart of San Francisco’s Japantown neighborhood; and,

11 WHEREAS, The YWCA was founded in San Francisco in 1912, by the organization’s  
12 national board, and has traditionally operated community centers and schools throughout the  
13 city; and,

14 WHEREAS, Due to practices of segregation within the YWCA during the early part of  
15 the 20<sup>th</sup> century, churches making up the Soko Bukai founded the Japanese YWCA; and,

16 WHEREAS, By the early 1920’s the Japanese YWCA had outgrown its small space on  
17 Gough Street and the women decided to raise money to buy a new building; and,

18 WHEREAS, The California Legislature had passed the Alien Land Law in 1913, and  
19 until it was deemed unconstitutional in the 1950s, only persons eligible to be U.S. citizens  
20 could own property; and,

21 WHEREAS, A congressional act, at that time, prevented Japanese immigrants from  
22 becoming citizens; and,

23 WHEREAS, The creation of “trusts”, the practice of an individual or a group who was  
24 ineligible for owning property finding a white person to hold the paper title for the property,  
25 was a strategy for circumventing these restrictive property laws; and,

1           WHEREAS, The Soko Bukai raised the necessary money and requested the San  
2 Francisco YWCA to purchase a building and hold the property in trust on behalf of the  
3 Japanese YWCA; and,

4           WHEREAS, The minutes from the San Francisco YWCA board meeting from February  
5 4, 1921 states: "The Japanese people have \$2,000 pledged...for the property to hold it in  
6 trust for the exclusive use of the Japanese YWCA."; and,

7           WHEREAS, The San Francisco YWCA contests the legality of this agreement and in  
8 1996, due to financial difficulties, decided to sell the 1830 Sutter Street building; and,

9           WHEREAS, Following the attempted sale of the 1830 Sutter Street building, the Soko  
10 Bukai filed a lawsuit against the YWCA; and,

11           WHEREAS, The Japantown YWCA building is an important community-serving  
12 resource; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco YWCA to  
14 acknowledge the existence of, and honor, an agreement made between the San Francisco  
15 YWCA and the Soko Bukai which placed the Japantown YWCA building located at 1830  
16 Sutter Street in the trust of the San Francisco YWCA on behalf of the churches that make up  
17 the Soko Bukai.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 011328

Date Passed:

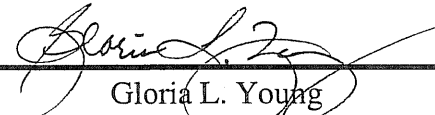
Resolution urging the San Francisco Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to acknowledge the existence of, and honor, an agreement made between the San Francisco YWCA and the Soko Bukai which placed the Japantown YWCA building located at 1830 Sutter Street in the trust of the San Francisco YWCA on behalf of the churches that make up the Soko Bukai.

July 23, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,  
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 011328

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution  
was ADOPTED on July 23, 2001 by the  
Board of Supervisors of the City and County  
of San Francisco.

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

AUG 03 2001

  
Date Approved

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.