

# PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 2024 AS

## ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, & PACIFIC ISLANDERS (AANHPI) HERITAGE MONTH

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**WHEREAS**, the AANHPI community is among the fastest growing and most diverse racial groups in the United States. AANHPI have made significant economic, political, and social contributions, and, according to the 2023 Census Population estimates, AANHPI are 32.9% of residents of San Mateo County; and

**WHEREAS**, behavioral health challenges impact people of all demographics, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, and religion; and approximately one in four people in the world have a behavioral health condition in their lifetime, which can impair one’s ability to work, pursue an education, enjoy healthy relationships, contribute to, and participate in the community, and live a fulfilling life; and

**WHEREAS**, May 10th is AANHPI Mental Health Day in San Mateo County which calls attention to the fact that AANHPI communities use behavioral health services at low rates among systematically marginalized populations. This is attributed to cultural stigma, limited behavioral health literacy, a shortage of linguistically appropriate and culturally attuned service providers, and limitations around culturally sensitive outreach and programming; and

**WHEREAS**, our AANHPI population is severely under-resourced and underrepresented in the behavioral health research, workforce, and policy discussions and culturally and linguistically responsive resources and access; and

**WHEREAS**, the AANHPI population suffered an increase in violent attacks and hate incidents compounding the stressors experienced even before this global health crisis. In 2022 nearly half of California AANHPI adults report everyday experiences with discrimination and 20% of Asian adults reported experience as a victim of a hate incident or crime.

**WHEREAS**, increasing education and sharing of lived experiences or personal stories of AANHPI community members, by AANHPI community members, facing and overcoming struggles; and offering a message of hope around behavioral health challenges are some of the most effective ways to reduce stigma, validate the journey, and empower the AANHPI community to take action to increase wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, community building and promotion of existing cultural or indigenous wellness practices, strengthens resilience and lessens the negative impacts of behavioral health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Office of Diversity and Equity’s Health Equity Initiatives, the Chinese Health Initiative, Filipino Mental Health Initiative and Pacific Islander Initiative, are working together to unify and amplify voices of our respective and collective communities toward wellness and equity, while imploring county officials to have intentional dialogue with stakeholders about creating policies and funding opportunities that address the increased health disparities among AANHPI communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates the month of May 2024 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Heritage Month and calls upon San Mateo County residents, public and private institutions, and the collective community to commit to purposefully, with cultural humility, address the behavioral health inequities and needs of our AANHPI community in San Mateo County through financial, legal, social, and political measures. In addition, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo commits to providing a seat at every table for the Asian American voice and presence, the Native Hawaiian voice and presence, and the Pacific Islander voice and presence to be heard, seen, and consulted in all matters related to our AANHPI community locally, nationally, and globally.

**Dated:** May 7, 2024

SUPERVISORS:

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WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT

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DAVE PINE

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NOELIA CORZO

\_\_\_\_\_  
RAY MUELLER

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DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest:

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Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors