



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Vicente Guillen Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #26-18
IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN,
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized as National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month to recognize and honor the contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States as designated by the United States Congress since 1992; and

WHEREAS, National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where Chinese immigrants played a key role in laying track and completing the historic project; and

WHEREAS, California is home to large populations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) people who have enriched the state in countless and invaluable ways, including in culture, science, academia, business, politics, and community life; and

WHEREAS, people of AANHPI ancestry have suffered intense discrimination since California's earliest days of colonization, including, but not limited to, the inhumane policies and treatment toward Chinese immigrants in the gold mining era, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the persecution of Filipino American workers, the illegal internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II, prejudice and discrimination against Vietnamese immigrants, and the rise in violence against South Asians after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County not only shares the national and state responsibility to overcome our history of hatred and violence toward AANHPI persons and communities but also must acknowledge and overcome the legacy of the county's history, including its central roles in the anti-Chinese movement and local persecution of Filipino workers exemplified in the 1930 Watsonville Filipino riots; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Education, students of Asian, Filipino, and Asian Pacific Islander heritage comprise approximately one out of every eight California students attending TK-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, in many California school districts, Asian American and Pacific Islander students expressed fear of violence and harassment when returning to in-person instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic eased; and

WHEREAS, schools not only have an obligation to prepare students academically but also must provide the foundation for global citizenship as well as participation in civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, schools must provide inclusive curriculum that highlights Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders and other underrepresented communities' histories to help students value themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, schools must help dispel the "model minority" myth, a stereotype that the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities are a monolithic group with uniform endowments and achievements, a way of thinking that erases the economic, academic, and social struggles of diverse communities and can add to the burden and social and emotional toll that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders students often bear; and

WHEREAS, our values of inclusiveness, humanity, and respect demand that we support our students and staff of Asian ancestry and the larger Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community in this moment of national strife and at all times; and

WHEREAS, public institutions, including in education, must acknowledge their own roles in reinforcing anti-AANHPI violence and discrimination, and must affirmatively counter the influence of white supremacy and racism in curricula, hiring, and allocation of resources; and

WHEREAS, public institutions, including in education, must strive to eliminate institutional racism in education, employment, and leadership;

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties especially for immigrants and peoples of color, including the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby condemns hatred, xenophobia, harassment, and violence towards people of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education commits to creating a supportive, inclusive culture that fully embraces students and staff of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize the month of May as National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of April 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Van Allen, Williams

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Roth, Sanchez

Rachel Williams

Rachel Williams, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Faris Sabbah

Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools