



Proclamation

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH May 2023

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPIs) Heritage Month is observed during the month of May to recognize the contributions and influence of the AA NHPI community to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, for which the majority of workers were Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, more than 6 million citizens of Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander descent reside in California and represent over 35 percent of Palo Alto's population, making AA and NHPI communities an invaluable part of the rich fabric of our City and State; and

WHEREAS, AA and NHPI communities have played a critical role in the social, economic, and political development of California throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, during AA NHPIs Heritage Month, we acknowledge AA NHPI persons have lived and worked in the United States for more than 200 years, and have made significant contributions to all facets of the United States such as economy, culture, education, politics, arts, law enforcement, military, literature, science, and technological developments, despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to silence and cover up these achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, we must also recognize the discrimination, exclusion, and outright violence that AA and NHPI communities face to this day and confront past and present racism in order to fight for the safety and inclusion of our AA and NHPI friends and neighbors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lydia Kou, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto on behalf of the entire City Council do hereby proclaim the month of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourage our community to join us in observing, recognizing, and celebrating the culture, heritage, and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to our city.

PRESENTED: May 1, 2023

Lydia Kou
Mayor