



ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) recognizes the Federal Asian Pacific American [Council's role to educate the public](#) about the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history and culture; and

WHEREAS SKPS recognizes that despite the month being Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, these are distinct groups and deserve equal representation, and although categorized together, they have their own histories, classifications and cultures; and

WHEREAS Asia-Pacific encompasses all 48 countries of the Asian continent and the [Pacific Islands](#) of 15 countries and three subregions that include Melanesia (2,000 islands), Micronesia (2,000 islands), and Polynesia (1,000 islands); and

WHEREAS traders from the Asia-Pacific region reached North America as early as the 16th century, but the first significant wave of immigration began during the late 1800s; and

WHEREAS Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have played a significant role in America's history, with their enormous contributions to science, arts, industry, government and commerce; and

WHEREAS the people from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) island nations have moved to the U.S., with especially the Marshallese and the Chuukese populations growing exponentially in the Salem-Keizer area; and

WHEREAS more than 2,000 students in our district identify as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS SKPS within Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrates all its students, including students who identify as LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS SKPS provides resources to directly support continued achievement growth for Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, including language, cultural, academic and outreach support for our two largest student groups of Chuukese and Marshallese; and

WHEREAS SKPS is committed to expanding employment and career opportunities for advancement of historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS SKPS condemns harassment and violence against the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities across the country and supports learning about the rich cultures, histories and contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and staff to foster safe and welcoming school environments for all community members;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors proclaims May 2024 to be Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and invites our community to join in celebrating our students and staff of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage and in making this a period of rededication to the principles of justice and equality for all people.

Karina Guzmán Ortiz, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

May 7, 2024

Date