

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-031

Proclaiming May 2021 Asian, Asian American and Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. The month of May 2021 is nationally recognized as a time to celebrate the contributions of Asians, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders.
- B. The month of May was chosen as Asian, Asian American and Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPIs) Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to honor the anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, on May 10, 1869. This incredible feat was accomplished due to the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants.
- C. AANHPI communities have lived and worked in Oregon for over 200 years, contributing to the state's rich history, economy and culture. Notably in the early 1800s, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders helped build fur trading posts along the Columbia River and throughout the Oregon Trail.
- D. AANHPI history is both heroic and harrowing as these communities have thrived despite harassment and discrimination, both of which are on the rise today.
- E. Despite the significant contributions of Asians, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians in various aspects of our society such as the arts, law, science, technology, sports and public service; these communities have been subject to historic and contemporary trauma. Today discrimination is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes.
- F. Multnomah County is committed to learning from and working with our AANHPI partners to eliminate disparities by removing impediments to success through increasing social inclusion, reducing poverty, ensuring language and healthcare access, and supporting meaningful civic engagement.
- G. Multnomah County welcomes and supports Asians, Asian Americans, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Oregonians as vital members of our community. The county is committed to continuing to actively work with the community to use county systems of care to provide our residents the safety they deserve.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of May 2021 as Asian, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrating all residents of Multnomah County who identify as Asian, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2021.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Lori Stegmann
Commissioner Susheela Jayapal