

**DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCLAMATION:  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF  
ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH IN MAY**

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Hawaiians, Chinese, and Japanese were the first to migrate to the Pacific Northwest and were known for handling canoes and transporting goods, construction, and railroad expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island)<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, we acknowledge Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing to Oregon's and the United States' economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science and technological developments<sup>2</sup> despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to prevent and limit these achievements and contributions<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, during AANHPI Heritage Month we acknowledge the additional determination, hard work, and perseverance, AANHPI must put forth to be heard and seen and that these additional efforts are a result of inequitable institutional and systemic injustices; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these contributions and leadership, the role of AANHPI in U.S. history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, we cannot deny the unique challenges and complicated, sometimes violent histories of peoples, nations, and empires across Asia and the Pacific- but we can commit to working together to strengthen our community for the future;

**WHEREAS**, racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes against the AANHPI community, especially targeting its Muslim, South Asian, and Southeast Asian members; and

**WHEREAS**, Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing communities in Oregon and Multnomah County<sup>5</sup>. This migration has been both voluntary and forced due to war and environmental degradation in their native countries; and

**WHEREAS** 86.2 percent of Asian students in the 2022-2023 four-year cohort graduated, 64.3 percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students graduated, and 81.8 percent of Asian Pacific Islander students graduated, a higher percentage than the all student cohort average percentage of 72.8 and

**WHEREAS**, 15.4 percent of enrolled students are Asian and 3.0 percent are Pacific Islander, and these populations increased .5 percentage points and 1.8 percentage points respectively over the past 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Asian Student Union organizes and promotes student success for Asian students; and

**WHEREAS**, 5.34 percent of the David Douglas School District workforce has self-identified as AANHPI and the percentage has increased 56.60 percentage points over the past 5 years; and

**WHEREAS**, 6.80 percent of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) has self-identified as AANHPI; and

**WHEREAS**, 0 percent of union leadership has self-identified as AANHPI; and

**WHEREAS**, 46.6 percent (41/88) of the ASB student leadership has identified as AANHPI;

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District is committed to and advocates for equal educational, professional, and social opportunities for AANHPI students, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Strategic Hiring Plan outlines specific strategies to increase staff of color, including a Grow Your Own Program with 51 staff of color enrolled.

**WHEREAS**, the David Douglas School District has an adopted Educational Equity<sup>6</sup> policy and an Equal Educational Opportunity policy<sup>7</sup> that states our commitment to closing the achievement gap for AANHPI students and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and articulated action steps in the adopted District Strategic Plan and District Equity Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, during AANHPI Heritage Month, we focus on the crucial role of education in

the history of AANHPI Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the District collaborates and partners with community-based organizations like IRCO Asian Family Center to form strong relationships in a culturally appropriate way and to provide the space for feedback and guidance to district leaders on improving outcomes and opportunities for AANHPI students and families in the District; and

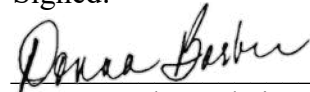
**WHEREAS**, AANHPI community members have been disproportionately impacted by incidences of hate and discrimination during the COVID 19 pandemic, and these experiences have disproportionately impacted our AANHPI youth.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Donna Barber, Chair of the David Douglas School Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to be

**ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH** in the David Douglas School District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the David Douglas School Board of Directors strongly encourages our staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.

Signed:



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Donna Barber, Chair, David Douglas SD

<sup>6</sup> <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/I/IGAB%20D1.PDF>

<sup>7</sup> <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/J/JB%20D1.PDF>