

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
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State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles

County

The many vibrant cultures and languages of Los Angeles County (County) are an asset in our global economy and to the social fabric of our communities. We are fortunate to be home to several communities that represent the largest diasporic populations outside their respective home countries. Among these include Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities from various countries, cultures, languages, and traditions. AANHPI communities have been deeply rooted in the history of our country, state, and region, making significant contributions to our shared history, society, and culture. The many communities that identify as AANHPI speak multiple languages, experience varied histories in the United States, and hold diverse cultural customs and traditions. However, AANHPI communities are too often treated as a monolith, which can lead to the erasure and misrepresentation of these communities, and as a result, these communities are often woefully underserved and under resourced.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

Data can be a powerful tool to identify outcomes and create opportunities to address the diverse needs of our communities. However, data for specific communities is not available, not collected, or ignored, and can exacerbate negative life outcomes for marginalized and minoritized populations. Without disaggregated data on AANHPI communities, it can be difficult for policymakers to understand the experiences of the communities they serve, and to know where the County needs to focus programs and services.

One result of incomplete data is the persistence of the model minority myth across many AANHPI communities. The concept of the model minority is a widely held and pernicious misconception that AANHPI communities uniformly experience positive or “high achieving” life outcomes, leading many to believe that AANHPI individuals do not experience the impacts of racism across systems, institutions, and general society. These harmful stereotypes are also commonly weaponized to dismiss the experiences of other people of color, which in turn drives a wedge between AANHPIs and other communities of color. In reality, many AANHPI communities across the U.S. and living in LA County continue to face systemic barriers to education, physical and mental health, personal safety, economic justice, cultural belonging, and full civic participation. Moreover, there is a long history of solidarity between AANHPI community members and other communities of color to collaborate and work collectively to advance anti-racism, equity, and justice.

During the COVID pandemic, the AANHPI community was the target of an alarming escalation of hate crimes. In response, organizations such as Stop AAPI Hate promptly documented and provided data to elevate findings that allowed policymakers

and the larger community to see what was happening. This resulted in making visible an important issue as well as action across our communities.

The County has initiated several Board of Supervisors (Board) actions addressing the state of AANHPI communities. On July 17, 2018, the Board passed the [Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Hate Crimes](#) motion (Solis and Kuehl) which directed the Commission on Human Relations to create and launch a multi-year public outreach anti-hate campaign. In response, Commission staff designed and implemented the LA vs Hate campaign, a community-centered system designed to support all residents and communities targeted for hate acts of all kinds in Los Angeles County. LA vs Hate features several program materials focused on AANHPI communities including, but not limited to, booklets in multiple Asian languages on how to report a hate crime and social media gifs condemning anti-Asian hate.

On April 6, 2021, the Board directed the creation of the County of Los Angeles [Equity and Diversity Fund \(Equity Fund\)](#) (Hahn and Mitchell) to, among other priorities, address the rise in anti-Asian violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Equity Fund is designed to prevent, address, and end hate, bias, discrimination, and xenophobia against AANHPI and other marginalized communities. The County has also embarked on a Countywide initiative to improve language access for English language learners.

The County must partner with community, academic, and civic leaders to develop a biennial State of AANHPI Los Angeles County Report. This report would incorporate the diverse perspectives of the AANHPI communities throughout LA County and provide a venue for community leaders to set a strategic vision for where we as a County and

community need to focus our efforts. This report will track any progress made to improve outcomes for AANHPI communities over time.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), in collaboration with the Human Relations Commission, to consult with a representative group of AANHPI stakeholders and academic and/or research institutions to create A State of AANHPI Los Angeles County report. The report should be presented to the Board biennially and include the following:
 - a. Focus areas to be addressed should be inclusive of, but not limited to:
 - i. physical and mental health,
 - ii. income and employment,
 - iii. housing and homelessness,
 - iv. education,
 - v. safety and justice,
 - vi. child and youth development,
 - vii. the built environment, and
 - viii. civic participation/voting;
 - b. An analysis of gaps and barriers regarding access and utilization of County programs and services to inform the report recommendations;

- c. An assessment of the County’s cultural humility, cultural competency, and language access practices serving AANHPI communities; and
 - d. Findings and recommendations on actions the County can take to address disparities and disproportionalities across focus areas and advance equitable outcomes for all AANHPI communities.
- 2. Direct ARDI, the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the CEO-Chief Information Officer (CIO) to report back to the Board in writing in 180 days on a Countywide data justice policy that standardizes racial, ethnic, cultural, and sociolinguistic data collection, disaggregation, and reporting practices.
- 3. Delegate authority to the CEO to apply for and accept local, state, and federal grants to support the above efforts. Also, delegate authority to the CEO to execute any agreements needed to carry out the motion’s directives provided that any such agreements are approved as to form by County Counsel.

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