

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

May 6, 2025

AND KATHRYN BARGER

Proclaiming May 2025 as “Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month”

Since 1992, the United States has observed “Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month” in the month of May to celebrate and recognize the contributions, impact, and influence that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have made in every aspect of American life.

Los Angeles County (County) has the largest population of AAPI residents of any county in the nation. Almost 1.5 million residents of AAPI descent call LA County home, and the County takes pride in having many AAPI communities represented through ethnic enclaves. Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Historic Filipino town, Thai Town, Little Bangladesh, Koreatown; the cities in the San Gabriel Valley and South Bay; and unincorporated areas including Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights all represent communities in which AAPI residents have thrived in Los Angeles County.

Asian Americans represent 15% of the region’s total population, with more Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Taiwanese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, and Burmese Americans living here than in any other jurisdiction in the nation. Los Angeles County has also seen significant growth among South Asian communities, with the

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Bangladeshi population increasing by 122%, Pakistani by 59%, Sri Lankan by 45%, and Indian by 29% between 2000 and 2010, reflecting the evolving and dynamic nature of our region. Among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, the Fijian American population grew by 68% during the same period, further enriching the county's cultural and demographic landscape. Almost 11% of households in the county speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language at home, with Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Tagalog, and Hindi among the most spoken languages in the region, underscoring the linguistic richness and diversity of our communities. Therefore, it is imperative and necessary for County to be an example of AAPI inclusion and advancement on the national stage.

As the county's AAPI population continues to grow, it is also aging, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational connection, honoring the contributions and wisdom of our elders, while also placing an importance on preventive health for this population. Factors like socioeconomic status, language barriers, and cultural norms can significantly influence health outcomes for various AAPI groups. For example, their experiences with quality of cardiovascular care, compared to other racial and ethnic groups, may be lower, potentially because of language barriers and barriers in access to care. This was the focus of a recent Board motion that uplifted AAPI heart health as a priority for the County of Los Angeles (Board Agenda of October 22, 2024, Item 15).

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More than 500,000 people in the county of Los Angeles have been told they have heart disease at some point. More than 2.1 million have been diagnosed with hypertension. Nearly half do not have their blood pressure under optimal control. Together, cardiovascular disease, along with Type 2 diabetes, are the leading causes of death and disease among many AAPI adults; however, rates vary widely among subgroups. Recognizing these nuanced differences in cultural, socioeconomic, lifestyle, diet, and other factors may provide insights into better ways to promote awareness and reduce cardiovascular risk through prevention and treatment using culturally tailored education and support program interventions.

It is also critical that the County not only provide vital resources during moments of adversity but also take steps to actively uplift AAPI communities. As the County strives to improve the lives of its more than 10 million residents, including its AAPI residents, it is important that it continue to highlight AAPI communities that have been historically marginalized and underserved. Through broader recognition and visibility, the County hopes that the community feels seen and heard, and ultimately welcome in accessing County resources.

The County is also proud to have a large contingent of AAPI employees who contribute and service the great needs of our residents, many of whom deliver information and resources in a culturally competent and linguistically inclusive manner

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for our large immigrant communities, whose ethno-linguistic backgrounds incorporate elements of over 30 countries and 100 spoken languages.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2025 as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month to honor and celebrate the deep history, cultural influence, sacrifices and contributions of AAPI communities with the 2025 theme, “*A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience*,” highlighting the enduring strength and visionary leadership of AAPI communities and individuals who have overcome challenges to lay the groundwork for future generations to flourish, which is woven throughout the history of the County.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Communications to promote County and County Department events celebrating the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage, including highlighting employees who exemplify AAPI values and County Department programs and initiatives that support AAPI communities and promoting the work of our AAPI-related County employee relations.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors Promote awareness and encourage residents to “Know Your Numbers” (blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar for diabetes or prediabetes) and talk to their healthcare providers about what they can do to protect their hearts through prevention strategies such as exercise,

AGN. NO. _____

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nutrition, sleep, stress reduction, and diabetes prevention.

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