

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPs) Heritage Month is an annual celebration every May that recognizes the historical and current contributions of individuals and groups of Asian, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent within the United States. The AA and NHPI umbrella term includes communities from the entire Asian continent, including East, Southeast and South Asia, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of last year, there were about 24.3 million people of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Hawaii was settled at least 800 years ago and developed a distinct Hawaiian culture and identity; and
- WHEREAS, the Republic became a territory and then in 1959 a state within the United States; and
- WHEREAS, founders Deva Yamashiro and Victoria Holt-Takamine, both native Hawaiian women, brought forward their vision for the Ke Kukui Foundation 21 years ago; and
- WHEREAS, 4 Days of Aloha has grown to be one of the most anticipated and sought-after events on the west coast and celebrates the Hawaiian arts and culture for children and elders to enjoy; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver's Native Hawaiian, as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander residents contribute to the vitality of our community, elevating all aspects of life in the City of Vancouver – from business and civic leadership to art and education to answering the call of service in our armed forces abroad and at home; and
- WHEREAS, while we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of their experience in the U.S. – colonization of land and people, structural discrimination, prejudice and injustice; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver recognizes and honors the many ways that Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders individuals people have enriched the fabric of our community while also rededicating ourselves to advance inclusion, belonging, and acceptance for all AA and NHPI communities; and
- WHEREAS, this month we proudly celebrate the rich culture and history of Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander heritage and history in the City of Vancouver, as we dedicate ourselves to working together to address the challenges that still face so many of our neighbors and members of the Vancouver community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as:

## **Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

and urge all members of our community to learn more about Native Hawaiian heritage and join us in striving to make our community vibrant, safe, prosperous and inclusive for all.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 1st day of May, 2023.

  
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR