



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community is among the fastest growing and most diverse racial groups in the United States, and the AANHPI population in New Jersey now exceeds 1 million residents, and accounts for roughly 10-13% of the state's total population according to 2020-2024 Census data; and

WHEREAS, while one in four Americans experience and/or are diagnosed with a mental health condition in a given year, the AANHPI population use of mental health services is among the lowest rate of ethnic populations, and there is significant underreporting of treatment needs for the AANHPI community; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are often aggregated into a single group as AANHPI, this can undermine awareness of their differences in addressing their mental health needs; thus, the CDC reports that suicide rates in 2018-2023 were lowest among non-Hispanic Asian Americans persons) and highest among non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the AANHPI consist of diverse communities and the cultural and linguistic needs of their communities, families, and individuals vary, their communities have made remarkable economic, political, and social contributions to society, they face unique challenges when seeking health care services, and mental health services in particular; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI communities have stigma, language barriers, and cultural beliefs about mental illness across generations that hinder healthy coping mechanisms and that prevent some individuals from seeking mental health care when needed; and

WHEREAS, providing culturally competent care and integrated services that aligns the mental healthcare delivery with the specific social, cultural, and linguistic needs of the AANHPI communities in the state; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about the mental health of AANHPI communities, past and present, encourages professional interest in health and human services careers and fosters a diversified workforce that reflects the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 10, 2026

AS

**ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND
PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fourth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States.

Dale G. Callahan
Lt. GOVERNOR

Mikie Sherrill
GOVERNOR