



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America is founded on a set of beliefs that all people are created equal and all people—including the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community—have fundamental rights, such as liberty, free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and due process of law; and

**WHEREAS**, racism, discrimination, bigotry, xenophobia, violence, bullying, and hate crimes have no place in American society, and any tolerance for such actions in schools, workplaces, business establishments, public spaces, government, and a court of law goes against our nation's fundamental beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982, the brutal murder of Vincent Chin in Michigan, which was not recognized as a hate crime, and the lack of prison time for the convicted criminals became a turning point in the push for a national civil rights movement; and

**WHEREAS**, May 18, the birthday of Vincent Chin, is now observed as AAPI Day Against Bullying and Hate as part of National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month which was made into law by the United States Congress in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, during a global pandemic that is in no scientific way ethnic by nature, today's current anti-immigrant and xenophobic climate have resulted in a staggering rise of thousands of reports of physical assault, verbal and online harassment, shunning, and civil rights violations against Asian Americans and immigrants, including the elderly, women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, certain AAPI groups—including Micronesian, Pacific Islanders, South and Southeast Asians, Muslims, Sikhs, LGBTQI, immigrants and those with limited English proficiency—are more likely to be targets of bullying and hate, especially considering that cultural, religious, and linguistic barriers can keep victims from seeking and receiving help; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility as American citizens to treat people fairly regardless of race, color, religion, age, gender or ethnicity; educate our children to embrace differences and multicultural diversity; and work towards a world where all people, including those within the AAPI community, feel empowered and safe in the land of the free and home of the brave;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2021 as**

## **“AAPI DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND HATE”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to stand united against racism, discrimination, bigotry, xenophobia, violence, bullying, and hate; show zero tolerance for bullying of any kind; and remain committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and acceptance.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-eighth day of April 2021.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i