



H.3116 — An Act relative to the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Presenter: Representative Tackey Chan

What Does This Bill Do?

This bill effectively calls for the current name of the Asian American Commission (AAC) to be expanded to include “Pacific Islander,” thereby recognizing the breadth and diversity of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the Commonwealth.

Why Does This Matter?

Permanently recognizing the AAC as the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

- **Acknowledges the growing population of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the Commonwealth.** According to estimates from the American Community Survey, Massachusetts has seen its Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population double from 2010 to 2016. As the AAC has grown and evolved since its inception in 2006, its name should also reflect these statewide demographic changes.
- **Allows the Commission’s name to better represent the diverse communities it already serves.** The AAC is intentional about offering programming that is inclusive of both Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across the Commonwealth. The proposed name change therefore increases consistency and accuracy in the Commission’s public work and communications.
- **Follows the naming conventions of other statewide commissions serving the AAPI community.** Similar commissions in California, Colorado, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Washington include either “Pacific Islander” or “Pacific American” in their official names. This name change thus enables the AAC to better align with its counterparts across the country.