



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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The Massachusetts Asian American Commission Announces Name Change

Today, the Massachusetts Asian American Commission announced that it has formally changed its name to the [Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission \(AAPIC\)](#) to reflect our communities' diversity and celebrate the vibrant history and culture of Pacific Islanders across the Commonwealth. Governor Charlie Baker signed the name change into law on July 16, 2021, as part of the FY22 enacted state budget.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders -- also known as Pasifika: people from the islands of the South Pacific and their descendants -- comprise people from any of the original peoples of Hawai'i, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. In Massachusetts, the 2020 Census data estimates that there are approximately 2,301 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residing throughout the Commonwealth. Nationally, there are 689,966 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in the United States.

Native Hawaiian Kamalani Yuen said: "Even though the term AAPI is used commonly, it is vital to ensure that we as a Commission are intentional behind celebrating and supporting the diversity of what is encompassed behind the term AAPI." Ms. Yuen, also AAPI Commission's Community Engagement Coordinator, continued, "Representation matters, and there must be a seat at the table for Pasifika."

AAPIC's work will continue by giving Oceania a platform through the following action steps including but not limited to:

- Providing educational programming together with Pacific Islanders
- Strengthening community partnerships with Pacific Islander organizations
- Building a permanent page on the AAPIC's website providing information and resources on the background, history, and culture of Pacific Islanders

This name change represents the Commission's effort to honor, celebrate, and recognize the full diversity of Asian American and Pacific Islander residents. All handles to AAPIC's social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn) have changed to [@aapicommission](#) and all emails have the domain ending with [@aapicommission.org](#). The new website domain address will change to www.aapicommission.org by November 30, 2021.