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Agenda Item: 4a

Meeting Date: May 28, 2024

**PROCLAMATION**

**OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Together We are Stronger; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AA&NH/PI)

Heritage Month is a time to reflect on the long history of Asian American and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (AA&NH/PIs) across our nation, in our state, and at the Port of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, AA&NH/PIs Heritage Month is also a time to elevate and celebrate the innumerable contributions and achievements of AA&NH/PIs in defending our democracy in times of crisis, in building our great nation's infrastructure, and in stimulating small business development; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the achievement of Vice President Kamala Harris, the first South Asian American woman, to hold the second highest office in the nation; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the achievement of Mayor Bruce Harrell, the first Asian American and first biracial Mayor of the City of Seattle ; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the achievements of our Port of Seattle Commissioners in serving in leadership positions in the Port's 111-year history: Sam Cho the first Asian American and first Korean American elected to the presidency in 2023 and Toshiko Grace Hasegawa first Asian American woman and first Japanese American woman to serve two terms as Vice President in 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, AA&NH/PIs are represented at every level of staffing and leadership at the Port of Seattle and we praise the tremendous work of Home for Asian Pacific Islanders (HAPI), Employee Resource Group, in continuing to elevate the voices of AA&NH/PIs at the Port; and  
WHEREAS, We commemorate the third anniversary of the Atlanta Spa Murders of six women of Asian descent and highlight the continued rise in hate and violence perpetrated against AA&NH/PIs nationally and locally since the pandemic; and  
WHEREAS, AA&NH/PIs are diverse with very distinct cultures and lived experiences, representing 48 distinct Asian and Pacific Islander nations; and

WHEREAS, It is precisely the diversity of people and perspectives within the AA&NH/PIs that makes AA&NH/PI communities stronger, more resilient, and able to achieve better outcomes, as demonstrated by Port HAPI ERG; and

WHEREAS, HAPI members representing AA&NH/PIs are honored to work collaboratively against anti-Asian bias and discrimination and stand united in seeking greater opportunities for AA&NH/PIs; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of May as AA&NH/PI Heritage Month is an important and meaningful step in honoring the history and contributions of AA&NH/PI people and Port employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby commemorates May as Asian American and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Heritage Month, acknowledging the contributions of the "Home of Asian and Pacific Islander" (HAPI) ERG, committing to promoting an inclusive and unifying environment for AA&NH/PIs, and reaffirming the importance of advancing AA&NH/PI leaders throughout the organization.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 28 day of May, 2024.

Port of Seattle Commission

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