



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COMMISSION ON
**ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN AFFAIRS**



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CONTACT

Joseph Saragoza
joseph.saragoza@capiiaa.ca.gov

Governor Newsom Signs AB 2374 to Strengthen AANHPI Student Success

Governor Gavin Newsom today signed [**AB 2374**](#) by [**Assemblymember Mike Fong**](#), establishing California's first statewide Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution designation.

Sponsored by the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, AB 2374 puts AANHPI students at the center of California's higher education strategy. The new statewide designation will recognize colleges that set measurable goals and strengthen academic and basic needs support to help AANHPI students stay enrolled, graduate, transfer, and pursue opportunities beyond college.

"Families across California work hard, stretch their budgets and make tremendous sacrifices to help their children attend college," said [**Jason Paguio, Chair of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs**](#). "By signing AB 2374, Governor Newsom is helping ensure that hard work leads to a degree, a good job, and a real opportunity to build a better life. We thank the governor for investing in the potential of California's students."

California's colleges and universities have developed innovative programs to help students succeed. AB 2374 will recognize that work, encourage institutions to learn from one another, and provide a statewide framework for expanding successful practices.

Under the new law, colleges seeking the designation will develop five-year plans with measurable goals for student retention, graduation, transfer, and timely degree or certificate completion. Plans will address academic support,

basic needs, student outreach, culturally relevant professional development, curriculum, research, and disaggregated data.

The voluntary designation will give colleges an opportunity to demonstrate how they are responding to the different experiences and needs within California's diverse AANHPI student population. It will also help students and families identify institutions that have made student success central to their mission.

[A Partnership With Assemblymember Mike Fong](#)

The Commission is deeply grateful to Assemblymember Fong for working alongside commissioners, students, educators, and community leaders to turn a community-driven idea into California law.

AB 2374 also builds on the success of [SB 1348 \(Bradford\)](#), which established California's Black-Serving Institution designation, and complements the parallel effort advanced through [SB 1255 \(Reyes\)](#), for which Assemblymember Fong serves as a principal coauthor, to create a California Hispanic-Serving Institution designation. Together, these efforts reflect a collaborative statewide commitment to ensuring that higher education institutions are recognized not only for whom they enroll, but for how effectively they help students persist, graduate and thrive.

"We are proud to have worked with Assemblymember Mike Fong from the beginning of this effort," said [Kirin Macapugay, Vice Chair of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs](#). "He listened to our communities, brought people together, and never lost sight of the students and working families this law is meant to serve. His leadership demonstrates what the government can accomplish when policymakers and communities work together toward a practical solution."

As chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, Fong helped build a broad coalition around the principle that enrolling students is only the beginning. Colleges should also be recognized and supported for helping students remain in school, complete their education, and move into the workforce.

"AANHPI communities have helped shape our state's history and have long contributed to the strength and diversity of our colleges and universities," said [Assemblymember Mike Fong](#). "I am proud that AB 2374 has been signed by Governor Newsom to recognize and support AANHPI students across California. This legislation reaffirms our commitment to ensuring institutions serving AANHPI students have the recognition and resources needed to support their success. Thank you to the Commission, especially Dr. Kirin A. Macapugay, Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Commission's

Educational Equity Committee, for working with me and my office to get the bill to the finish line.”

AB 2374 recognizes that AANHPI students are not a single story or statistic. By encouraging the use of disaggregated data, the law will help colleges better understand differences in student outcomes and build upon programs that are already helping students succeed.

“This designation is more than a title,” said [Commissioner Diann Kitamura](#). “It represents a promise that students, families, colleges, and the state will continue working together so every student has a fair chance to cross the graduation stage.”

[Read The Full Statement](#)

[About CAPIAA](#)

The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs serves as the official state commission advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on issues affecting California's more than 7 million Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander residents. Through policy recommendations, community engagement, research, and public education, CAPIAA works to advance equity, increase civic participation, and improve the quality of life for AANHPI Californians throughout the state.



California Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs
925 L Street Suite 325
Sacramento, CA 95814 US

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