



## NATIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDER EDUCATION NETWORK

*"Uniting the resources of the village to strengthen families, the community and to promote educational excellence."* 501.c.3 Nonprofit Organization



### Happy Valentine's Day and Happy President's Day!

Wishing you Aloha and rest on these two days!

**NPIEN**  
www.npien.com

— 13th Annual NPIEN —  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Join Us for a Day on the Greens!  
You select the course and day

March 27 to April 20, 2026 | Tee Time: Your Choice

Play Anywhere: Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, Orange County,  
Northern California, San Diego County, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Missouri & More!

— Event Highlights —

- Supports Student Internships & Scholarships
- Includes Participation Prize!
- Pick Your Foursome & Schedule Your Course!

— Registration / Donation —

- Register by 04/01/2026
- Entry Fee: \$60 Per Player or \$200 Per Foursome
- Does Not Include Greens Fees or Cart

— How to Sign Up —

- Visit: <https://forms.gle/D0RzMQ46m9KX6>
- Email: [npien@npien.com](mailto:npien@npien.com)

— Sponsorship Opportunities Available! —

- Get Involved: <https://forms.gle/jp0DRzMQ46m9KX6>
- Contact us for details!

Don't Miss a Fantastic Day of Golf & Fun!  
All Skill Levels Welcome!

[www.npien.com](http://www.npien.com)

### Did You Register for the Golf Tournament Yet? Tournament 3/27-4/20/26 Register Now!

Visit this link. Do not wait. You can play anywhere in the world! <https://www.npien.com/news-events/upcoming-events/323-the-13th-annual-golf-tournament>

### Falanai Ala Guest Speaker and Mentor Program

Call to action for NPIEN Chapters: Please complete or share the [School Interest form](#) with local schools in your region. Additionally to all, please complete the [Speaker Interest form](#) if you have availability to support this year. New deadline is February 26, 2026.

Thank you to Dr. Thompson for already securing 10 school visits, most recently visiting Lakewood High School Career Day (150 students).



## State of the College at Long Beach City College

Elepise Leiataua, NPIEN Staff Member and Long Beach City College (LBCC) Student Trustee was the emcee at the State of the Collage Event on January 29, 2026. Dr. Mike Munoz, LBCC Superintendent-President spoke of the many achievements at the college this year. Congratulations to Pise and LBCC! Great to see President of the Board of Trustees UduakJoe Ntuk and Trustee Vivian Malauulu.



## PacBIZ Mixer in El Segundo, CA

NPIEN members were happy to attend the PacBIZ Mixer in El Segundo, California. The event gave us a chance to meet and network with Pacific Islander business owners and professionals. It was a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and support Pacific Islander businesses in the community.

It was especially nice to see Emcee and actress Sisa Grey and her daughter Ta'iuta Uiagalelei, who is the new Executive Assistant for NPIEN. We also saw visual artist JP Pereira and Honorary NPIEN Board Member Rita Scanlan. Events like this help build strong connections and show how important it is to support Pacific Islander leadership and entrepreneurship.

Overall, the PacBIZ Mixer was a positive and welcoming event that allowed people to come together, build relationships, and celebrate Pacific Islander success in business.



## Dr. King Celebration in Lakewood, CA on January 18th

NPIEN members attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Lakewood YMCA on January 18. We were also proud to be part of the planning committee for the event. The celebration honored Dr. King's legacy and focused on unity, service, and community.

It was great to see members of the Lakewood City Council, including Mayor Cassandra Chase, Vice Mayor Jeff Wood, and Council Members Todd Rogers and Steve Croft. Their presence showed strong support for the community and the importance of honoring Dr. King's message.

One of the highlights of the event was recognizing students in grades K-12. Students created artwork and wrote essays that reflected Dr. King's values, and they were honored for their hard work. The event brought together families, leaders, and students to celebrate education, creativity, and social justice.



## Dr. King Day of Service in Long Beach, CA on January 19th

On January 19, NPIEN members attended the Dr. King Day of Service ceremony at Long Beach City College (LBCC). The day started with a pancake breakfast provided by the Long Beach Fire Department, followed by remarks from LBCC Board President Uduak-Joe Ntuk.

After the ceremony, more than 700 volunteers went out to different locations to participate in service projects. NPIEN members volunteered at the North Long Beach YMCA preschool, where we helped clean and weed the garden. It felt good to give back and help improve a space for young children.

The day truly showed the meaning of Dr. King's message of service. It was a "Day-on, not a Day-off," and it reminded everyone how important it is to help and support the community.



## The SoCal PICRT Fresh Wave 5K

NPIEN members participated in the first ever SoCal PICRT Fresh Wave 5K fundraiser. Many organizations and community members joined, making it one of the biggest running and fitness events we have seen in a long time.

It was great to see NPIEN supporter JP Pereira and his son Leone, as well as Honorary NPIEN Board Member LooLoo Amante Tupua. They are some of the few runners representing the Pacific Islander community. The newly formed Pasifika FRun Club, NPIEN's Team Samoa/Pasifika Running and Fitness Club, and many other groups also participated. The event was fun, active, and brought the community together through fitness and support. There was even a claim that Dr. Thompson finished first, though he said it was "first in the Senior Division." Overall, the 5K was a successful and exciting event that encouraged health, community, and Pacific Islander representation.

## Buy See's Candies to Support NPIEN's YUM Raising for Valentines' and Spring

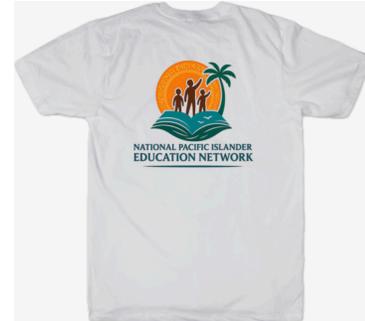
Visit our webpage and take some time to order for your friends and support NPIEN. The sales end in late March. [Join NPIEN for Valentine's and Spring Yumraising.](#) | [See's Candies Yum-Raising](#)

**See's CANDIES.**  
YUM-RAISING FRESNO T.N.R.



## Did you visit the Dr. Tino Store for an NPIEN T-Shirt? Order today

[National Pacific Islander Education Network by my-island-surprises](#)



## Sharing Aloha streaming on Amazon Prime

Sharing Aloha is a new movie that tells the story of students who work at Hawaii's most popular attraction, the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Visit their website for more information:

<https://sharingalohathemovie.com/>



## Information about Immigration from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the California Department of Education, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the State of California

California's Know Your Rights Resource Portal

<https://govca.app.box.com/s/46mdr10niig1civmvh00d467plprcwjv>

San Diego County, CA Know Your Rights [County Helps Businesses Prepare for Federal Enforcement Actions](#)

What to do when detained <https://ajsocal.org/immigration/#know-your-rights>

What to Carry Amid ICE Raids <https://ajsocal.org/immigration/>

Refer to this website for more information on your rights and protections under the US Constitution.

[ajsocal.org/immigration](https://ajsocal.org/immigration)

Schools are safe havens <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/safehavens.asp>

Keep Ice out of Schools <https://stopaapihate.org/keep-ice-out-of-schools/>

From the Los Angeles County Office of Education <https://www.lacoe.edu/services/student-support/immigrant-relations>

## Aloha Music and Mindfulness on Mondays at 11:00-11:15 a.m. PST

15 Minutes of Escape: Aloha Music and Mindfulness Now on YouTube  
In our busy weeks, sometimes all we need is a few quiet minutes to breathe, listen, and reconnect. Aloha Music and Mindfulness offers exactly that — a 15-minute escape designed to refresh your spirit and bring a little calm to your Monday mornings. Our YouTube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/live/H6\\_zNt-mbpg?si=DdCGD1JCKh7DPOW6](https://www.youtube.com/live/H6_zNt-mbpg?si=DdCGD1JCKh7DPOW6)



## February 3rd Ohana Night, Lesona Ukulele Class Coming February 19th at 6:00 p.m.

NPIEN hosted a successful Ohana Night on February 3, bringing together an audience of 20 community members for an evening of music, connection, and cultural celebration. Musicians Alex, Eddie, Robert (Canada), and Wilma (San Marino, CA) performed songs honoring President's Day, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day. Thank you to NPIEN staff Alex and Eddie, and Ohana staff Lisa, Audrey, and Azela, for making the evening possible See you on **February 19th at 6:00 p.m.**



## Join Us for School Talk Story on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. PST on Twitch

Visit this page for the music and chord charts for Ukulele Class

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/511301896632709> Also here

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1U\\_ara7SxQd19a47Lzfs1wS-DWcxzXSiW](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1U_ara7SxQd19a47Lzfs1wS-DWcxzXSiW) Live on Twitch, streamed to YouTube, Facebook and Link-in!!! [https://twitch.tv/ukulele\\_dad](https://twitch.tv/ukulele_dad) Please subscribe to Twitch and YouTube to support NPIEN.

## Community Health News

### Measle Cases in Los Angeles County

A second confirmed case of measles was of an international traveler who traveled through Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on January 26th. Individuals who may have been exposed at LAX should monitor for symptoms until February 16 and Dunkin Donuts at Woodland Hills until February 20th. As of January 30th, 588 cases of the measles have been reported in the United States which is the highest number of cases in January since 2000. As always, it's highly encouraged to have updated immunizations (i.e., MMR or MMRV) as it helps to protect you against measles. Individuals who are uninsured or underinsured may call 2-1-1 for a list of clinics offering immunizations.

### County Psychiatric Facility in Oceanside

A new psychiatric facility opened up on the western side of the Tri-City Medical Center campus, and it is the first county-funded inpatient facility in San Diego. This allows for an expansion of essential behavioral health care for residents in San Diego. Emergency departments and local crisis stabilization units are able to provide referrals to this psychiatric facility. The facility is expected to serve 350 to 500 patients annually through therapeutic groups, occupational therapy, and health consultations.

### We Can Do This! Take Care of Your Health

Visit these two websites for additional information

<https://www.pacificislanderhealth.org/>

<https://www.socalpicrt.org/>

## Announcements

- **Happy Birthday to Desma Thompson, age 94, and Jon Pearson!**
- **Sounds of the Season Orchestra** The Arrowbear Music Camp Association, led by NPIEN Board Member and violinist Cliff Kusaba, had a Christmas Eve Community Orchestra at the Cerritos Mall! They played many holiday songs, including the Hallelujah Chorus and raised funds for music camp. Cliff played in the orchestra and Dr. Thompson tried his best on the cello. Great to see Claudia, Ian and Maggie Fitzpatrick, and Cathy and Brooke Parker and we thank them for their efforts. Consider a donation here <https://www.arrowbearmusicassoc.org/donate>
- **Legislation** NPIEN joined many organizations in supporting the California Investment in Language Access and SB 5574 in the State of Washington, including AANHPI curricula in schools.
- **Time to apply for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** Visit this link [https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa?mc\\_cid=5ffd567a2b&mc\\_eid=6c7fc3df7d](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa?mc_cid=5ffd567a2b&mc_eid=6c7fc3df7d)
- All new members and renewing members eligible for a scholarship from Grand Canyon University (GCU)! <https://www.npien.com/home/join-npien> Contact Jaylin Pedicord or Kara Kahler for information on GCU. 1-800-800-9776 ext. 2427522 [jaylin.pedicord@gcu.edu](mailto:jaylin.pedicord@gcu.edu) [kara.kahler@gcu.edu](mailto:kara.kahler@gcu.edu)
  - **New Members:** Abel Salazar, Elizabeth Soza, Samantha Halifax, Luis Aviles, Angelina Kelly
- **Bi-Monthly SoCal PICRT Meeting** Interim Treasurer Dr. Charlene Shimada and Student Interns Marla, Mya and Samantha represented NPIEN at the SoCal PICRT meeting on 2/4. Let us know if you'd like to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. PST.

#### BOARD OFFICERS National Pacific Islander Education Network (NPIEN)

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