



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 New Year! The NPIEN Board Retreat in San Diego!

We wish everyone a Happy 2026! We welcomed the New Year with our Annual Board Retreat in San Diego, January 9-10. On Friday we visited Morse High School and saw many students, including Taniyah Eames and Hailey Mora our 2025 Christina Diaz Scholars, plus Staff Interns Marla Ignacio, Samantha Ledesma, and Mya Troung. We attended the MISA (Morse High School Islander Association) dance rehearsal, visited with Principal Dr. Cynthia Larkin, and NPIEN Awardee Coach Dalvon Logan. Friday dinner for the Board, Staff was at Chamorro Grill. Attendees were Nani Schott, MISA Teacher and Advisor, Dr. Thompson and Staff Interns Marla, Samantha and Mya. Saturday morning Joy Dodge of the San Diego County Office of Education joined us at the Hillcrest Conference Room, along with Nani and Morse Interns. We had a productive planning session of our 2026 Goals and Calendar. After the retreat, Dr. Thompson and family traveled to San Ejijo State Beach, took a picture of the Certificate to Recognize the late John Harrington. This was John's favorite beach. He was a long-time NPIEN Staff Member, former educator in the Irvine Unified School District, and strong advocate for the Pacific Islander community. Memorable retreat!

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

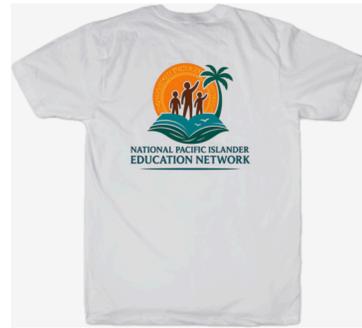
Visit our webpage and take osme time to order for your friends and support NPIEN. The sales end in late March. [Join NPIEN for Valentine's and Spring Yumraising](#) | [See's Candies Yum-Raising](#)

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 and the California Department of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education

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

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>

Red Card/Immigration Preparation Tool Kit if ICE visits you <https://ajsocal.org/immigration/#toolkit>

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



Ohana
Hawaiian BBQ



January Ohana Night and Lesona Ukulele Class

On January 6th we celebrated the New Year with songs like Rock Around the Clock, plus Dr. Martin Luther King Songs: Swing Low, We Shall Overcome, and a variety of other songs: Unchained Melody, LOVE, How Sweet it Is. Over 30 in the audience including Staff Albert. On January 15th was Lesona Ukulele Class and the class did an early concert: A Dream is a Wish, Amor, My Girl and for Dr. King in Ukulele Class: He's Got the Whole World, and Michael Row the Boat Ashore. with 20 in the audience, including our baby friend. Thanks to Staff and Musicians Alex, Eddie, Wilfred and Wiima. See you on **February 3rd and 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 Live on Twitch,

streamed to YouTube, Facebook and Link-in!!! https://twitch.tv/ukulele_dad Please subscribe to Twitch and YouTube to support NPIEN.



Community Health News

Andrew Dysim's Article on Type 1 Diabetes

Thank you, Andrew, for contributing this important article for all of asian americans, especially Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

<https://www.npien.com/health/320-type-1-diabetes-in-asian-american-native-hawaiian-and-pacific-islander-communities-understanding-the-growing-challenge>

Measles-Related Complication

Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) can develop on those individuals who had measles early in their life. A child in LA County later developed SSPE as a result of contracting measles during infancy, before they were eligible to receive the vaccine. Unfortunately, the child died from SSPE, as it is a universally fatal complication from the measles virus. It develops 2 to 10 years after the initial measles infection. SSPE affects 1 in 600 people who contracted measles as infants. This further emphasizes the importance of having updated vaccinations as it can help protect yourself and those around you, especially the vulnerable populations. For those that are uninsured or underinsured, you may call 833-540-0473 or visit <http://ph.lacounty.gov/vaccineclinics> for a list of clinics that offer immunizations.

Secondhand Smoke Effects

Studies show that non-smokers who were exposed to the aerosol of electronic smoking devices (ESD) absorb similar nicotine levels as someone who is actually using the ESD. Additionally, teens' risk of bronchitis symptoms is increased by 40% due to secondhand vape exposure. A 2024 study also found that there is a 24% increase in risk of developing breast cancer due to secondhand smoke exposure. In order to mitigate these unhealthy outcomes, exposure to secondhand smoke should be reduced.

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!**
- **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
- 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 kara.kahler@gcu.edu
 - **New Members:** Milynda Navarro, Vivian Tran, Karena Martin, Shaniya Burks, Kathy Oborn, Sola Knowlton, Na'Tasia Brandhaw, Naomi Jeyra, Chanel Harris, Aimee Munoz, La Donna Bear Claw
- **Bi-Monthly SoCal PICRT Meeting** Vice President Leatapo Fesili and Interim Treasurer Dr. Charlene Shimada represented NPIEN at the SoCal PICRT Retreat. Let us know if you'd like to join us on the 1st and

3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. PST.

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