

Salt Lake County

A PROCLAMATION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARING AUGUST 2022, AS PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH IN SALT LAKE COUNTY, UTAH

WHEREAS, in August of 1889, forty-six Pacific Islanders arrived in Utah and built the Iosepa settlement in Tooele's Skull Valley; and

WHEREAS, this first group of pioneers was the vanguard of many more Pacific Islanders who would follow, with nearly 50,000 Pacific Islanders living in Utah in the present day; and

WHEREAS, over 20,000 Pacific Islanders are residents of Salt Lake County; and

WHEREAS, August was first declared as Utah's Pacific Islander Heritage Month by former Governor, Gary Herbert in 2012, and has subsequently been declared as Utah's Pacific Islander Heritage Month every year since, including by Governor Spencer Cox in 2022; and

WHEREAS, there are many groups of Pacific Islanders in Salt Lake County who strive to lift up their people and improve their lives, working in conjunction with the efforts of state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, Iosepa, a ghost town located seventy-five miles southwest of Salt Lake City in Tooele County, was once home to over two hundred Polynesian members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and now draws an annual gathering of Pacific Islanders and others from all over the United States on Memorial Day each year; and

WHEREAS, Tongans make up the largest group of Pacific Islanders living in Utah, followed by Samoans, Native Hawaiians, Maoris from New Zealand, Tahitians from the Society Islands, as well as Pacific Islanders from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Raro Tuman and other small islands; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian migration to Utah accelerated after the Second World War, with Pacific Islanders bringing with their customs, folkways, and traditions to Utah, and contributing to our state's growing and diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, a large majority of Salt Lake County Pacific Islanders live on the west side of the county, and are involved in various community groups that foster self-identity and pride in Pacific Island heritage by sponsoring sporting and performance competitions, reunions, and anniversary celebrations – none of which would be proper without traditional foods and often imported island fare; and

WHEREAS, many of our Utah sporting teams benefit from the incredible sporting talent and the rich heritage in athletics fostered by this group of Utahns; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Islander youth in Salt Lake County face many challenges, and community and government leaders should consider these challenges and engage the community in order to find solutions for them; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County recognizes the achievements of Pacific Islanders in the arts, cuisine, government, business, sports, religion, and other cultural elements that enrich, strengthen, and define our county's history, culture, and politics; and

WHEREAS, the histories and accomplishments of our Pacific Islander residents deserve to be told and retold to recognize the incredible contributions given to the many communities they helped to build in Utah and in Salt Lake County;

Now Therefore, Be It Proclaimed:

The Salt Lake County Council does hereby declare August 2022, as Pacific Islander Day in Salt Lake County. The Council further encourages all residents of our community to join us in honoring our Pacific Islander neighbors and celebrating their place in Salt Lake County.

August 2022 shall be a month of remembrance for the Pacific Islander pioneers, their families, their descendants, and those who continue to come and call Utah and Salt Lake County home.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2022.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____

Laurie Stringham, Chair, At-Large A

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At-Large B

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At-Large C

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