

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2374 (Fong)

As Amended August 13, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Establishes criteria and procedures for a postsecondary education institution in California to receive a designation as a "California Asian American – and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander – Serving Institution" (AANHPI designation).

Senate Amendments

- 1) Increase the governing board from eight to nine members by adding a representative from the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs to the governing board.
- 2) Identifies the managing entity for the AANHPI designation to be the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.
- 3) Adds additional content to the strategic plan required as part of the AANHPI designation's application.
- 4) Provides clarity on the data elements provided by applicants for the AANHPI designation.
- 5) Specifies that the governing board is only required to meet once per year and that the managing entity is only required to accept applications once per year.

COMMENTS

Asian American – and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) students at public higher education institutions. Of the 2.2 million students enrolled at a community college in the 2024-2025 academic year, 248,686 identified as Asian and 7,979 identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. In 2025, the California State University (CSU) enrolled 471,451 students, of whom 71,413 identified as Asian and 1,333 identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. The University of California (UC) enrolled 237,616 students in fall 2025 with 131,933 identifying as Asian and 2,454 identifying as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Other than the UC, AANHPI students comprise a minority of the overall student population on California higher education campuses. Providing for a safe and inclusive environment is paramount, when 1 in 10 Asian American adults in Californians experienced a hate crime in a single year. This measure seeks to accomplish this by providing a California AANHPI designation to help students make informed decisions regarding colleges and universities who are actively providing academic and basic needs support to assist in the academic success of all of their students.

The provision of the measure asks institutions who are seeking the AANHPI designation to provide a strategic plan for how they will provide targeted support opportunities for AANHPI students to improve graduation and retention rates. In 2022, due to advocacy efforts by the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, the State provided \$16 million in ongoing funding to the CSU and the CCC to establish the AANHPI student achievement

program. The purpose of the funds was to be used to "provide culturally responsive services to enhance student educational experiences and promote higher education success for low-income, underserved, and first generation AANHPI students and other underrepresented students." The Chancellor's Office of the CCC provided \$100,000 to 51 eligible colleges and the CSU provided funds to all 23 CSU campuses to provide students with the following services: culturally responsive learning communities, advising and counseling services, mental health counseling, career development, supplemental instruction/tutoring, AANHPI ethnic studies courses and curriculum development, and internship/mentorship opportunities.

The measure expands upon the work completed by the Legislature to provide additional services to AANHPI students. The measure requires applicants for the designation to develop a strategic plan to provide similar services to those currently being provided at the CCC and CSU through the AANHPI student achievement program.

Please see the policy committee analysis for a full discussion of the bill.

According to the Author

As denoted by the author, "California's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) students come from diverse backgrounds and income levels. AB 2374 establishes a state level designation to recognize public and private higher education institutions that show commitment toward supporting AANHPI students in increasing retention and graduation rates. With the increase in anti-Asian hate sentiments and attack on immigrant communities, the designation will help AANHPI students make important enrollment decisions at institutions where they know they will be welcomed and supported in a cultural context."

Arguments in Support

As the sponsors of the measure, the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (Commission) states "California's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students comprise diverse populations whose educational experiences and outcomes are often obscured by aggregated data and persistent stereotypes, masking documented equity gaps among specific subpopulations. Despite this, a statewide designation that honors organizations that serve this population does not yet exist. AB 2374 fills this need by providing a transparent and fair application process for designation and demonstrating long-term commitment via strategic planning and accountability."

The Commission further states, "A statewide designation process for AANHPI serving institutions will encourage institutional accountability, strategic planning, and targeted support structures aligned with statewide equity and student success goals. In addition to creating conditions where AANHPI students may flourish both academically and personally, it pushes schools to improve their student support programs. This designation is a testament to California's leadership in promoting educational fairness and advancing disadvantaged communities. We also acknowledge your leadership and dedication to the advancement of the entire AANHPI community, paving the road to our continued success. AB 2374 will benefit students, families, and institutions throughout the state in a significant and long-lasting way."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) The Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges indicates that it has requested \$700,000 in ongoing General Fund support to establish an Office of Civil Rights. The proposed office would lead systemwide civil rights and Title IX efforts and could also support implementation of the designated California AANHPI serving institutions. If these funds are not provided, the Chancellor's Office would implement the designation using existing resources and available administrative funding, including Student Equity and Achievement Program set-aside funds.
- 2) The California State University and University of California estimate minor and absorbable costs to participate in the designation of California Asian American- and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions. The Chancellor's Office indicates that if a community college district applies for the bill's designation, it could result in optional but minor, one-time Proposition 98 General Fund workload costs for a college to gather the requested data and information.

VOTES:**ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 7-3-0**

YES: Fong, Boerner, Jackson, Muratsuchi, Patel, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

NO: DeMaio, Macedo, Tangipa

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-0

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-16-6

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta

UPDATED

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