



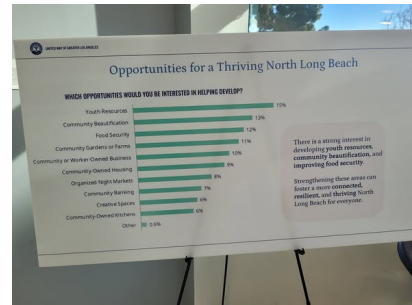
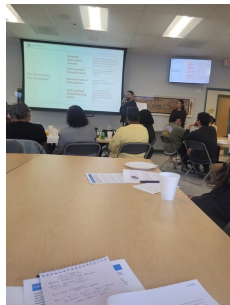
# NATIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDER EDUCATION NETWORK

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



## Celebrating Mes Chamoru in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

Why do we celebrate? The island-wide celebrations embody the core Chamorro values of respect, community, reciprocity, recognizes Magellan's arrival in Guam.



## United Way Community Dialogue on 3/15/24

We are at the North Long Beach community dialogue sponsored by the United Way at Long Beach City College. We need more NPIEN members who live here, work here, or work with the North Long Beach community to participate in future meetings.

- United Way is working on supporting North Long Beach and other communities using a collective economy and cooperate model
- We discussed a Community restaurant, kitchen or Farmers Market
- We discussed home-based child care and senior care
- A Community Night will take place on April 25th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## 60th Anniversary on Bloody Sunday in Selma on March 7th

US Representatives Maxine Waters and Hakeem Jeffries, Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson and others marched across the the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama during the 60th anniversary of the march to ensure the constitutional rights of African Americans to vote. Rep. Waters in a past sponsor of NPIEN's Christina Diaz Scholars program





## Golf Tournament Now Virtual: Register by April 1st. Tournament at Recreational Park sold-out

[Register Here for the Tournament by 4/5/25](#)

[Register Here to be a Sponsor for the Tournament](#) and you are now a Sponsor of our Miniature Golf Tournament and Annual Conference.

### 12th Annual Golf Tournament Update

**Major Sponsors:** Dr. Siona Motufau, Henry Chang CPA, Carol Wynder, Pacific Islander Health Partnership, Leatapo Fesili, Cliff Kusaba, Charity Works, LA Island Radio, Musical Theatre West, Grand Canyon University, Travel Set Go  
**Tee-Sign Sponsors:** Cliff Kusaba, Leatapo Fesili, Jean Law, Ray Vincent, PayPal, Dr. Steve Koletty, Rebecca Cate, City of Lakewood, Mark McKeon, Dennis Pagenkopp, Meri Veavea, Pete's Plumbing, The Laugh Factory, Product Teacher, Kevin Piggee, In-N-Out Burger

**Golf Teams:** 5 Teams for the In-Person Tournament, Missouri Team for the Virtual Tournament

**Prize Sponsors:** Go Kart World, Naples Rib Company, In-N-Out Burger, The Laugh Factory, Emerald Isle Golf Course, Personalized Golf Care, Boulevard Florist, Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ, Hof's Hut, Pacific Park at the Santa Monica Pier, Charity Works, Long Beach Playhouse, Millennium Logo Glove, Product Teacher, Travel Set Go, Charity Works  
**Luau Luncheon** is for those golfing at Recreation Park.



## Krispy Kreme Fundraiser From March 15 until April 15!

Join us to raise funds for our scholarship, internship and operational programs

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/56824>



## Lakewood Chamber Mixer and Vida y Alma

We enjoyed a personal tour of Costco on 2/27 with fellow Chamber members and it is always an opportunity to network and discuss NPIEN's programs. We also visited Vida y Alma House of Beauty on 3/13 and celebrated Womens' History Month.



## Information about Immigration from Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the California Department of Education

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>

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



## Lesona Ukelele Class on March 18th!

Ukulele musicians participated in the Lesona Ukulele Class at Ohana Hawaiian BBQ on Tuesday, March 18, including Lei, Wilma, Albert, Alex, Carrie, Kiki, and Dr. T. We learned and played Coconut, Brown Eyed Girl, and Itsy Bitsy Spider. Special guest Board Member Dr. Tino Andres was in attendance for the evening. The next Lesona Ukulele Class will be on April 15 at 6:00 P.M.



## Mikaela Saelua, American Samoa Teacher of the Year

Mikaela is an English/Language Arts Teacher at Leone High School. She earned her B.A. from UCLA and her MEd. from University of Hawaii, Manoa. She is the Forestry Club and Peer Leaders Club advisor and Volleyball

## L.A. ISLAND RADIO and SCHOOL TALK STORY

LA Island Radio is an NPIEN partner led by radio personality David Brown "Mylay." Listen to LA Island Radio at <https://www.laislandradio.com>



**Ukulele\_dad/School Talk Story with Dr. T** is on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. School Talk Story with Dr. T discusses NPIEN events and activities and features guests from the world of Education. Topics covered include the Cell Phone Policy in LAUSD, the upcoming Golf Tournament, and Immigration, emphasizing that schools are Safe Havens. Watch on Twitch [https://twitch.tv/ukulele\\_dad](https://twitch.tv/ukulele_dad) at 12:00 p.m. It will also be streamed to Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in and YouTube.



### Social Security Announces New Resources for Sickle Cell Warriors

Individuals with sickle cell disease now have the opportunity to be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. SSDI is based on earnings, whereas SSI is a needs-based program based on age (65 or older) or having a disability and limited income.

Resources for the Evaluation Process: Adults or Children

### Local Detection of Hantavirus

On January 3, 2025, a deer mouse in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was found to have hantavirus, which currently does not have a cure. Symptoms of infection may include chills, difficulty breathing, nausea, stomach pain, headache, or muscle aches. Symptoms typically appear 1 to 8 weeks after exposure to the virus. People can be exposed via inhalation of an infected rodent's feces, saliva, or urine. In order to avoid possible exposure, a "wet cleaning" method should be used when cleaning potentially infected areas; this includes using bleach/disinfectants, rubber gloves, and bags.

### California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Challenge Awards to 2 County Programs

San Diego County's Equity Impact Grant Program won a CSAC Challenge Award. The program offered \$100,000 grants to 20 nonprofit businesses, thereby helping individuals from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities secure funding for their organizations. Additionally, the San Diego County Library's Raising a Reader workshops program also won the award. The workshop program allows incarcerated adults to read books to their children (up to 5 years old) monthly, addressing literacy rates and the issue of generational incarceration.

### We Can Do This!! COVID Vaccines, Measles, Avian Flu

Visit these two websites for additional information

<https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/>

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

## Announcements

- Happy Birthday to Laura Kusaba!
- 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: Ashley Baysinger, Brandy Farley Jennifer Chiu, Cara Cox, Danielle Jean, Joshua Osorio, Angelica Salazar**
- Please write to NPIEN Member Deepak Charan, #BW0425, C309, #42U P.O. Box 3535 Norco, CA 92860. He needs encouragement. Contact us for more details at [npien@npien.com](mailto:npien@npien.com)
- **Bi-Monthly SoCal PICRT Meeting** We discussed creating an advocacy agenda, and NPIEN representatives discussed how to develop relationships with legislators plus education issues to advocate for: safe haven schools and school safety. Let us know if you'd like to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. PST.
- **The NPIEN Professional Mentoring Program** has begun and NPIEN members have reached out to Pacific Islander K-12 educators and others through school site visits, and via phone, text and e-mail to provide support and share professional knowledge. We also are asking mentees to identify students interested in being future educators. Let us know if you are interested.

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