

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2684-1

WHEREAS, June is nationally recognized as Caribbean American Heritage Month. In June 2005, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee of California, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, the resolution was passed by the Senate, resulting in a Proclamation issued by President George W. Bush on June 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have been advocating to be recognized since 1999 when a petition by the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) was sent to President Bill Clinton, requesting Caribbean Heritage Month to be honored; and

WHEREAS, according to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), there are more than 8.5 million individuals that were born in the Caribbean or have Caribbean ancestry living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the [United States Bureau Census American Community Survey](#) reported a population total of 5.3 million people who reported being Caribbean in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 school year, there were approximately 11,800 Caribbean students enrolled in United States higher education, according to the Migration Policy Institute; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) goal of improving access to inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education, the SCCOE creates and supports efforts to help youth feel accepted and supported while at school; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), the SCCOE launched the My Name, My Identity Initiative, a campaign that promotes awareness of valuing students' cultures and languages by learning about their stories, unique names, and proper pronunciations. A [My Name, My Identity toolkit](#) was created to support educators in their lessons to create inclusive classrooms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing the month of June as Caribbean American Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 20, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Raena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Tara Sreekrishnan



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools