

MAY IS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the U.S. May was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to America on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. In 1992, the official designation of May as APAHM was signed into law.

2012 THEME:

Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion

Charles Nainoa Thompson is a Native Hawaiian navigator and the Executive Director of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. He is best known as the first Hawaiian to practice the ancient Polynesian art of navigation since the 14th century, having navigated two double-hulled canoes (the Hokule'a and the Hawai'iloa) from Hawaii to other island nations in Polynesia without the aid of western instruments.



Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Thompson graduated from Punahou School in 1972 and earned a BA in Ocean Science in 1986 from the University of Hawaii. Thompson was trained by master navigator Mau Piailug from the island of Satawal and assisted him on the first voyage of the Hokule'a in 1976.

His first solo voyage was from Hawaii to Tahiti in 1980. Since then, Thompson has been the lead navigator on the subsequent voyages of Hokule'a, including the Voyage of Rediscovery from 1985 to 1987.

On March 18, 2007, Thompson and four other native Hawaiian navigators were inducted into Pwo, a sacred ceremony, as master navigators. The ceremony was conducted by Piailug on Satawal.

Thompson currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Kamehameha Schools (a post that his father Myron "Pinky" Thompson also held), and a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii.

Source from Wikipedia.

Read More About Hawaiian Voyaging Traditions at:
<http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/index.html>