

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING DEYANIRA MATSUO-ALBOR

WHEREAS, the mission of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in our community by increasing positive awareness of queer youth leadership and increasing safe and welcoming environments at home, at school, and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Ally to Queer Youth Award is given annually to honor a community member that has made significant contributions to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, Deyanira Matsuo-Albor, known affectionately to students as Matsuo, serves as the lead custodian at Lakeview Middle School in Watsonville and is an integral and beloved member of the school community; and

WHEREAS, beyond her professional role, Matsuo stands out as a devoted ally to the LGBTQ+ community, showing her support by attending Lakeview's LGBTQ+ events and volunteering her time with the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) club; and

WHEREAS, when students planned to create a rainbow door for National Coming Out Day, Matsuo ensured their safety and success by reinforcing the doorframe, demonstrating her care not only for their expression, but for their well-being; and

WHEREAS, each day, Matsuo invites students to help her raise the progress pride flag—an act that affirms diverse identities and honors the ongoing pursuit of LGBTQ+ equality and visibility; and

WHEREAS, through her compassion, reliability, and quiet strength, Matsuo has become a trusted confidant and protector of LGBTQ+ students and staff, standing firmly against hate and fostering an inclusive environment in both word and deed; and

WHEREAS, Deyanira unwavering allyship, empathy, and everyday advocacy have created a lasting sense of safety, pride, and belonging for the entire Lakeview Middle School community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby honor and recognize Deyanira Matsuo-Albor as the recipient of the 2025 Ally to Queer Youth Award.



Felipe Hernandez
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

May 10, 2025

Date