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## NAPAFASA Applauds Adoption of Electronic Music Festival Task Force Recommendations by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Los Angeles, CA** - NAPAFASA supports the adoption of a Los Angeles County ordinance that will include prevention education in order to reduce drug use by Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today adopted the Electronic Music Festival Task Force's (EMFTF) Recommendations concerning mass events with 10,000 or more participants. According to the Los Angeles Times and other local news organizations, one event held on county property in 2015 saw as many as 49 people transported to emergency rooms resulting from the dangerous combination of alcohol, drugs, dehydration, and over-hydration leading to life-threatening fevers and seizures.

"The leadership of Chair Hilda Solis and the Board of Supervisors in adopting the EMFTF Recommendations will ensure the reduction of drug overdoses at electronic music festivals throughout Southern California," said, Myron Dean Quon, NAPAFASA Executive Director.

"Of particular concern are the high rates of participation by Asian Americans and Latinos at such events, including several highly publicized overdose deaths involving young Asian American women. NAPAFASA supports the education and prevention components of the EMFTF Recommendations, including a requirement that the Department of Public Health collaborate with local nonprofit agencies to develop culturally competent prevention concerning alcohol and drug use. Many partner agencies have worked in a nonprofit coalition to reduce drug use within the Asian American community, oftentimes linked to the 'model minority' myth and stigma concerning acknowledgment of drug use in the Asian American communities. The Recommendations adopted by the Board of Supervisors included feedback from many partner agencies including youth organizations, drug prevention and recovery organizations, and Asian community-based organizations. NAPAFASA looks forward to working with Los Angeles County public health agencies toward implementing next steps in the development of culturally competent drug prevention education."

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*NAPAFASA is a national organization that prevents and reduces substance abuse in Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islander families and communities through research, advocacy, education, and capacity building.*