



CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Strengthening and
Advocating for
Asian American
Native Hawai'ian/
Pacific Islander
Communities



**THE CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON
ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS**
IS GRATEFUL TO **COMCAST**
FOR ITS SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA'S
ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
THROUGH ITS GENEROUS UNDERWRITING
OF THE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.



Cover photos, top to bottom: community members at the Bay Area hearing on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 (photo by Meeta Kaur); Assemblymember Paul Fong and Congressman Mike Honda with Commissioner Nitasha Sawhney at the press conference for the post-9/11 Bay Area hearing; Cambodian youth represented in the public hearing in Long Beach on the state of Cambodian American youth; Congresswoman Judy Chu (center) at the post-9/11 hearing in Southern California; Pacific Islander Fitness Day in Los Angeles.

**GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE,
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA:**



It is with great honor that I present the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs' annual report highlighting the activities and topics that the Commission addressed in 2011.

The past year was notable for the Commission's outreach initiatives that brought the voices of our diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities to the attention of policy makers. Federal, state, and local officials heard testimony and information on important concerns first hand from APIA members at events that were originated by the communities we serve.

According to the 2010 Census, APIAs are among the state's fastest-growing population, increasing from 4,321,585 in 2000 to 5,556,592 in 2010—a 33.6 percent growth in the last decade. APIAs now constitute 15.5 percent of California's population, with emerging immigrant and refugee populations expanding rapidly. The challenges to this changing face of California are many, including the rise in hate crimes post-9/11. It is the Commission's role to bring APIAs' unique concerns and assets to the forefront so that our communities can thrive in this great state.

The APIAA Commission would not be in existence without former Assemblymember George Nakano, who authored Assembly Bill 116, the legislation that created our Commission in 2002. His foresight enabled APIA affairs to be addressed today on a statewide policy level.

We owe much gratitude to the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and to Assemblymembers Warren Furutani and Mary Hayashi, Caucus chair and vice chair, respectively. We also appreciate the Caucus members who worked with us as we conveyed our issues and recommendations to California's leadership: Assemblymembers Mike Eng, Paul Fong, Ted Lieu, Fiona Ma, Alberto Torrico, and Mariko Yamada; Senators Leland Yee and Carol Liu; and Controller John Chiang and Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee, honorary members.

We thank the entities with which we collaborated this year. They include Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN), Asian American Education Institute, South Asian Network, South Asian Americans Leading Together, The Sikh Coalition, California Legislative Women's Caucus, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Khmer Girls in Action, and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. Key individuals and other organizations and sponsors are noted throughout this report.

We are especially grateful to Andrew Medina, whose support throughout the year remains invaluable to our mission, and Diane Ujjiye, past founding commissioner and executive director of APIs CAN, who continues to guide the Commission's work with relentless energy.

The work by our volunteer commissioners was greatly enhanced in 2011 with the addition of five new members: Noel Alunit, Tami Bui, Tana Lepule, Courtni Pugh, and Bill Wong—all of whom added their skills, experiences, and knowledge to our already highly talented and extraordinarily dedicated team of Commission members. We also thank Special Services for Groups, which serves as our fiscal sponsor.

Finally and importantly, in a testament to partnerships, we are grateful to Comcast, whose sponsorship of this annual report to the Legislature illustrates the private industry's commitment and understanding of the issues that are pressing to California's APIA communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blong Xiong'.

Commissioner Blong Xiong, *Chair*

BLONG XIONG, CHAIR



Mr. Xiong is a councilmember for the city of Fresno. He is an outspoken advocate on issues ranging from education, youth, and civic participation to community and economic development. He is the first Asian American to hold a council position in Fresno and the first Hmong elected to a city council in California. During the 2010 U.S. Census, he was co-chair of the Complete Count 2010 Census Committee. Mr. Xiong also sits on the California Volunteers Commission, by appointment of the Governor's Office.

DIANNE YAMASHIRO-OMI, VICE CHAIR



Ms. Yamashiro-Omi serves as program manager for Equity and Diversity for The California Endowment. With close to 25 years of experience in philanthropy, she has a long history of activism and dedication to improving socioeconomic conditions for APIA and all underserved communities. Her career runs the breadth of executive director, consultant, board member, advisor, and volunteer for numerous nonprofits and some of the largest philanthropies in the San Francisco Bay Area.

KIM-YEN HUYNH, TREASURER



Ms. Huynh is a leader in Orange County's business community, actively promoting collaboration among ethnic businesses and working tirelessly on issues related to community improvement. She serves as chair of the Organizing Committee for the Asian American Business Women Leadership Conference and spearheaded 2010 U.S. Census efforts as chair of the Vietnamese Complete Count Committee. Since 1980, Ms. Huynh has served as an executive manager with various financial institutions.

NOEL ALUMIT, SECRETARY



Mr. Alunit has worked in the HIV/AIDS field for over 20 years, most of them with the APAIT Health Center. He is a founding member of the Los Angeles HIV Prevention Planning Committee and sits on the steering committee of API Equality-LA. He also sits on the advisory boards for the Young Men's Study at Children's Hospital and the Art/Global Health Center at UCLA. Mr. Alunit is the *LA Times* best selling author of *Talking to the Moon* and *Letters to Montgomery Clift*.

TAMI BUI



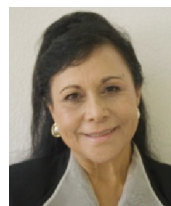
Ms. Bui is a government associations manager at Southern California Edison International. In 2010, she was recognized by the company as a winner of SCE's Chairman's Awards. Before SCE, Ms. Bui worked in the State Capitol for Senate Pro Tem Don Perata, Senator Lou Correa, Senator Tom Torlakson, and Assemblymember Judy Chu. Her board affiliations include Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics and Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, among others.

TANA LEPULE



Mr. Lepule is the Native Hawai'ian and Pacific Islander community liaison for the cancer disparities projects at CSU Fullerton and UC San Diego. He is executive director of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities and serves on the California Council on Multicultural Health, San Diego Police Chief's Advisory Board, APIA Vote, and Pacific Islander Festival Association. He worked with NHPI organizations and Assemblymember Warren Furutani on ACR 67, which recognizes the contributions of NHPI communities to California.

CATHERINE 'OFA MANN



As founder and president of TOFA of Sacramento, Ms. 'Ofa Mann spearheads the effort to support the growing numbers of Pacific Islanders in the greater Sacramento area. Her leadership roles include a number of community nonprofits, including Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association. She is the first Pacific Islander named to a California commission. In 2010, the California State Assembly presented Ms. 'Ofa Mann with the API Heritage Award for Excellence in Public Service.

COURTNI PUGH



Ms. Pugh serves as special assistant to the executive director for SEIU Local 99. Previously, she was executive director of the California State Council, the first woman and Asian American to lead this coordinating political body for over 15 SEIU locals. Ms. Pugh is board president of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium Fund and is a founding member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association in Washington, D.C.

NITASHA SAWHNEY



Ms. Sawhney is a partner in the Los Angeles and Bay Area offices of GCR, LLP, where she specializes in education, labor, and employment law. Her community activism includes serving as legal advisor to The Sikh Coalition and Policy Task Force of South Asian Americans Leading Together. She speaks frequently in public forums on harassment and discrimination prevention, hate crimes, and bullying. Ms. Sawhney was honored as a 2011 API Heritage Award recipient by the California API Legislative Caucus.

MIMI SONG



Ms. Song is founder of Mimi Song Company, a commercial real estate brokerage firm with offices in Southern California. For more than 20 years, she has been involved with a variety of economic ventures, cultural organizations, and philanthropic and nonprofit groups, all devoted to bridging cultures and developing leadership in a global economy. Ms. Song is a co-founder of Global Leadership Development Foundation which trains future leaders of America towards positive endeavors.

ALICE WONG



Ms. Wong has dedicated her legal career to public service and community advocacy. She spent 14 years as a deputy district attorney at the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office and was the first Asian American prosecutor assigned to the homicide unit. She is now in private practice with law partner Jerry Chong. Ms. Wong is founding president of CAPITAL Foundation, a nonprofit committed to strengthening the API community and for which she focuses on the criminal justice system.

ANDREW WONG



Mr. Wong is a partner with Dechert LLP, representing domestic and international companies in the financial, technology, oil and gas, food and beverage, manufacturing and transportation industries. His affiliations include the Pomona Unified School District as a governing board member, Diamond Bar Community Foundation as a board member, Dental Hygiene Committee of California, the Diamond Bar Community Foundation, and Sports Educators of America.

BILL WONG



Mr. Wong is a strategic consultant with many years of state legislative experience that includes chief of staff to Assemblymember Judy Chu and Senator Hilda L. Solis and legislative director to Assemblymember Mike Honda. Among the organizations with which he has held leadership positions are Chinese for Affirmative Action, Asian Pacific American Leadership Project, My Sister's House API Domestic Violence Shelter, Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center, and Chinese American Council of Sacramento.

SUPPORT

ANDREW MEDINA, LIAISON, CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Mr. Medina has served nearly eight years in public service at the California State Legislature working for electeds such as former Assemblymember Judy Chu and Assemblymember Mike Eng. Mr. Medina is the consultant for the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, made up of eleven APIA members of the Legislature and currently chaired by Assemblymember Warren Furutani. In addition, he sits on the board of the Sacramento chapter of the New Leaders Council.

DIANE UJIYE, PAST COMMISSIONER AND APISCAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ms. Ujiye has spent 30 years addressing issues that affect API communities. She is executive director of Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APISCAN), which acts as a catalyst for public policies on API community development and social service issues. APISCAN has been leading statewide policy advocacy since 1993 and is the major coordinator of the annual API Policy Summit held in Sacramento. Ms. Ujiye served on the Commission since its inception and until her retirement as commissioner in 2010.

THE MISSION of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs is to elevate the political, economic, and social issues of Asians and Pacific Islanders by contributing to and strengthening how state government addresses the needs, issues, and concerns of the diverse and complex Asian and Pacific Islander American communities in California.

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ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The role of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs is to:

- ▣ Advise the Governor and Legislature on how to respond most effectively to the views, needs, and concerns of the state's Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.
- ▣ Serve as an effective liaison for Asian and Pacific Islander American communities with the Governor's Office and the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.
- ▣ Examine issues of access and cultural language sensitivity by state agencies, departments, and commissions.
- ▣ Provide assistance to policy makers and state agencies in identifying Asian and Pacific Islander American communities' needs and issues and develop appropriate responses and programs.
- ▣ Educate the public about hate crimes against Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.

HISTORY

Former Assemblymember George Nakano (Torrance) authored AB 116 in 2002 to establish the Commission, with members of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus co-authoring the bill. The concept for the Commission originated from strong community support and advocacy. The Commission's creation is an historic recognition of the accomplishments and needs of California's growing Asian American-Native Hawai'ian/ Pacific Islander (AA-NH/PI) populations.

The Commission consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. We are a citizens board comprised of leaders from different vocations, backgrounds, and regions of the state. Individually and collectively, the commissioners give an impartial assessment of AA-NH/PIs' needs. We seek to make California's government more responsive and efficient by helping state agencies, departments, and commissions improve service delivery to our communities. We also disseminate information on state programs and services that are important to AA-NH/PIs.

The Commission has been operating since January 2004. Although established by statute, the Commission and its activities are supported by private donations; we do not receive any public money.

2011 was an energetic year for CAPIAA—one of outreach and initiatives as commissioners brought together members from the wide spectrum of Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities. From the convening of Pacific Islander Fitness Day and the 8th Annual California API Policy Summit to public hearings on topics of deep concern to our communities, we actively served as liaison between APIA voices and California policy makers.

The following highlights CAPIAA's activities during 2011. In reading about the initiatives that the Commission convened throughout the year, take note of the key points and recommendations

derived from the events and proceedings and their proposed impact on California's APIA communities.

In other equally vital matters, CAPIAA voted to endorse the Asian American Business Women Leadership Conference in Garden Grove, brought to the Commission's attention by Commissioner Kim-Yen Huynh. We also voted our support for API Equality-LA's approach to the FAIR Education Act, championed by Commissioner Noel Alunit, which compels the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in educational textbooks and social studies curricula in California's public schools.

PACIFIC ISLANDER FITNESS DAY



Pacific Islander Fitness Day on April 12, 2011: youth participating in fitness exercises; Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (American Samoa), Assemblymember Warren Furutani, and community members; completing the needs assessment survey; poster announcement.

Chronic disease is the leading cause of death for Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Numbering more than 1.1 million nationwide in the 2010 Census count, the health disparities suffered by Pacific Islanders present a serious concern. Indeed, one out of five Pacific Islander American youth is considered obese. Prevention and reduction of this physical condition are primary goals among community activists. Yet there is little information about the need for physical activity and better nutrition or about cultural beliefs and behaviors.

Commissioner Tana Lepule collaborated with other Pacific Islander leaders to initiate a unique effort to promote physical activity and healthy eating tailored after First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. *Pacific Islander Fitness Day* brought together more than 20 community organizations and public entities, including the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The goal was to increase awareness about health check-ups, cancer screening, physical activity, and nutrition.

CAPIAA co-hosted the event on April 2, 2011,

at UCLA with the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and generous support from The California Endowment. Joining the community were Congressman Eni Faleomavaega; Congresswoman Judy Chu; Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs with the U.S. Department of the Interior; Assemblymember Warren Furutani; and Assemblymember Mike Eng. Pittsburgh Steelers Hines Ward and Troy Polamalu and San Diego Charger Michael McNiel partnered with television fitness celebrity Jillian Michaels of "Biggest Loser" to lead the youth in physical activity stations. A Health Village provided resources and health screenings and a Diet and Healthy Food Village offered tasty food choices as well as information on preparing healthy cultural food. In addition, more than 220 participants completed a brief needs assessment survey.

Pacific Islander Fitness Day was a successful collaboration of federal, state, and local officials with sports and fitness celebrities working with Pacific Islander leaders on an issue of grave importance to the community.

8TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY SUMMIT



APIAA commissioners at the 8th Annual API Policy Summit in Sacramento: Kim-Yen Huynh and Blong Xiong; Nitasha Sawhney and Noel Alumin with Assemblymember Warren Furutani (center); Catherine 'Ofa Mann (center) and Kim-Yen Huynh (far right).

This year's API Policy Summit, *Fighting the Good Fight: Impacting Local, State, and Federal Public Policy*, took place on May 2 & 3, 2011, in the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento. The two-day assembly welcomed more than 300

Mark your calendar for the **9th Annual API Policy Summit on April 30 & May 1, 2012.**

community leaders and activists who eagerly shared strategies for developing policy proposals that allow community leaders and their organizations to fight the good fight. Participating as

hosts of the Summit were Assemblymembers Warren Furutani and Mary Hayashi, chair and vice chair, respectively, of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

This year's Summit featured skills-building workshops that incorporated real community problems, all designed to strengthen the ability of APIAs to advocate, organize, and lead. The organization of the workshops into four tracks brought focus to specific policy issues on the local, state, and federal levels. The policy tracks included: civil rights, education, health and human services, and housing and community development.



At the gala banquet.

The Commission co-hosted a reception with the API Legislative Caucus before the gala banquet, which kicked off the celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May.

On day two of the API Summit, community members became advocates as they met with key decision makers in the State Capitol to discuss legislative, policy, and budget issues that impact APIA communities.

Conveners joining CAPIAA to sponsor the Summit included the Asian American Education Institute, Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN), California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, and Special Services for Groups (SSG) as fiscal sponsor.

SUMMARY OF API SUMMIT TRACK PRIORITIES

CIVIL RIGHTS

AB 84 (Fong): New Citizen Voting

Ensures that all U.S. citizens have the right to vote in California elections by allowing individuals who become citizens after the voter registration deadline to register and vote until the close of polls on Election Day.

AB 305 (Furutani): Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act

Enhances state agencies' compliance with the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act by using existing, underutilized information to strengthen the reporting requirements of the State Personnel Board (SPB); improves SPB reporting requirements to comply with Dymally-Alatorre; improves language data

SUMMARY OF API SUMMIT TRACK PRIORITIES, CONTINUED

gathering by allowing state agencies to use the most recent U.S. Census data to determine clients' language needs.

AB 889 (Ammiano and V. Manuel Pérez): Domestic Workers Bill of Rights

Provides comprehensive reform of the domestic service industry by setting industry-wide standards and extending equal protection to domestic workers.

AB 1088 (Eng): Asian American, Native Hawai'ian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Demographic Data

Ensures that state-collected data are disaggregated into the top AANHPI ethnic groups, consistent with groups currently reported by the U.S. Census; makes data available to the public by requiring specific state agencies to post the data on their Web sites.

AB 1081 (Ammiano): TRUST ACT

The Transparency and Responsibility Using State Tools (TRUST) Act will modify California's memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement to honor local jurisdictions' decisions by making the "Secure Communities" program an "opt-in" program while providing key safeguards.

SB 48 (Leno): FAIR Education Act

The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act would prohibit discriminatory instruction and discriminatory materials from being adopted by the State Board of Education. Amends the Education Code to include contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans in the social sciences.

EDUCATION

AB 5 (Fuentes): Evaluation and Support for Certificated Employees

Revamps the state's teacher evaluation system; allows districts and unions to bargain with

evidence of effectiveness in specific areas.

AB 18 (Brownley): School-based Financial Reporting System

Requires the state superintendent to recommend ways to restructure school-level financial data so there is transparency, accountability, comparisons of financial data across and within districts, and other aspects of school/students progress.

AB 124 (Fuentes): English Language Development Standards Advisory Committee

Establishes the English Language Development Standards (ELD) Advisory Committee for the purpose of aligning the ELD standards to the English Language Arts (ELA) standards adopted by the State Board of Education in August 2010.

AB 199 (Ma and Cook): Filipinos in WWII Social Studies Curriculum

Encourages instruction in social science to include an accurate history of the contributions of Filipino American veterans in the U.S. Army for freedom and democracy in World War II, under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur.

AB 207 (Ammiano): School Attendance: Residency Requirements

Provides guidance to school districts about the types of documentation that may be required as proof of residency in the district by clarifying "reasonable evidence of residency."

AB 1088 (Eng): Asian American, Native Hawai'ian and Pacific Islander Demographic Data

Requires every state agency to collect data for major AANHPI groups, including, but not limited to, Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan; requires agencies to update their data collection categories to match those used by the U.S. Census.

SUMMARY OF API SUMMIT TRACK PRIORITIES, CONTINUED

AB 1326 (Furutani): Golden State Higher Education Act

Creates an oil severance tax in of 12.5 percent; requires all revenue generated by this new tax—approximately \$2 billion annually—to go to public post-secondary education at the California Community Colleges, California State University, and the University of California.

SB 257 (Liu): Student and Teacher Success

Requires districts to establish evaluation plans that present clear expectations of teachers and staff; clearly states how evaluations are conducted, by whom and how they are trained, and the timeline for conducting evaluations.

SB 433 (Liu): Charter Schools—Student Expulsion

Requires charter schools to follow current law regarding the suspension and expulsion of pupils. Currently, this due process requirement is voluntary for charter schools. Creates consistency for all publicly funded schools as well as fairness for students and their families.

SB 512 (Price): Academic Performance Index: Numerically Significant Subgroups

Lowers the definition of “numerically significant pupil subgroups” from 50 to 10 students. California tracks the students performance in subgroups of more than 50 in number or more than 15 percent of the school’s population. For APIA students who make up less than 50 or less than 15 percent, performance is not reported and schools are not held accountable for addressing their academic needs.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**AB 1088 (Eng): Disaggregated Data**

Ensures that state-collected health, education, social services, labor, and civil rights data are disaggregated into additional AANHPI ethnic groups, as currently reported by the U.S. Census; makes data available to the public by requiring various state departments and boards to post the data on their Web sites.

AB 1296 (Bonilla): Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System for Medi-Cal, Exchange, and Healthy Families

Develops a streamlined and simplified Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System for key public health programs as required by the Affordable Care Act.

AB 922 (Monning): Office of Consumer Assistance

Creates the Office of Health Consumer Assistance to answer questions about and help resolve problems related to health care.

AB 43 (Monning): Medi-Cal Expansion

Conforms Medi-Cal eligibility requirements with those required by the Affordable Care Act, effective January 1, 2014. Eligibility will include persons who are less than 65 years of age and whose income does not exceed 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

AB 714 (Atkins): Pre-Enrollment in the Exchange and Medi-Cal

Implements and improves on the provisions of federal health reform by maximizing the uninsured and underinsured when the Exchange opens and Medi-Cal eligibility expands to cover adults without children under age 18 at home on January 1, 2014.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**SB 184 (Leno): Land Use: Zoning Regulations**

Authorizes the legislative body of any city or county to adopt ordinances to establish, as a condition of development, inclusionary housing requirements; declares the intent of the Legislature in adding this provision.

SB 729 (Leno): Calif. Homeowner Protection Act

Requires loan servicers to provide applications for a loan modification to homeowners; determines eligibility for a modification or other alternative to foreclosure prior to filing of a Notice of Default. Intended to help avoid unnecessary foreclosures when a loan modification or other alternative is a viable and economically desirable option.

PUBLIC HEARING: UNHEARD VOICES OF 9/11



Unheard Voices: panelists talk about school bullying post 9/11; Congressman Mike Honda, Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, and Assemblymember Paul Fong; Hon. Paul Fong and Hon. Mike Honda with leaders in the South Asian community at the press conference to open the proceedings (photos by Meeta Kaur).

CAPIAA and the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus convened a community hearing on August 27, 2011, to hear the impact of 9/11 on the rights and liberties of Muslim, Sikh, South Asian, and Arab Americans. The event was part of *Unheard Voices of 9/11* which coordinated hearings in the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City as well as an interactive Web site that shares compelling stories (unheardvoicesof911.org). The Bay Area proceedings took place in Mountain View with Assemblymember Paul Fong and The Sikh Coalition serving as hosts.

The public testimonies gave voice to members of the Sikh, South Asian, Arab, and Middle Eastern communities in the aftermath of 9/11. Like all Americans, they endured the devastating terrorist attack on the U.S. And in the ten years afterwards, they continued to be victimized by discriminatory attacks from fellow Americans in the form of hate crimes, workplace harassment, school bullying, profiling, law enforcement targeting, and other actions that result from bigotry and ignorance.

Co-moderated by The Sikh Coalition program director Amardeep Singh and APIAA Commissioner Nitasha Sawhney, the assembly heard more than 30 speakers who contributed their thoughts, perspectives, and experiences to a packed audience of more than 125 people.

Panelists at the Bay Area hearing included Congressman Mike Honda, Assemblymember Paul Fong, Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, San Jose Councilmember Ash Kalra, San Jose Police Chief Chris Moore, former Asian Law Caucus attorney Veena Dubal, and Council on American Islamic Relations-SFBA executive director Zahra Billoo.

Assemblymember Fong stressed the importance of listening to community members, documenting



Commissioner Nitasha Sawhney and Amardeep Singh of The Sikh Coalition co-moderated the hearing that heard the experiences and perspectives of over 30 people speaking to an audience of more than 125 (photos by Meeta Kaur).



their experiences with the Legislature, and taking action in the immediate future. Congressman Honda stated that it is the responsibility of public officials to protect the community against acts of ignorance and discrimination.

Co-sponsoring the proceedings were the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Arab Cultural and Community Center, Alliance of South Asians Taking Action, Asian Law Caucus, Council on American Islamic Relations-SFBA, Muslim Advocates, and South Asian Americans Leading Together. The hearing was endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, Asian American Justice Center, and United Sikhs.

PUBLIC HEARING: UNHEARD VOICES FROM TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11



Post-9/11 hearing: Assemblymember Warren Furutani, Senator Lou Correa, and Assemblymember Mike Eng; SAN executive director M.P. Kulkarni, Commissioner Kim-Yen Huynh, Congresswoman Judy Chu, and Commissioner Catherine 'Ofa Mann; APISCAN executive director Diane Ujiye, M.P. Kulkarni, and Kim-Yen Huynh; Catherine 'Ofa Mann and Commissioner Mimi Song.

More than 150 South Asian Americans and their supporters gathered on August 20, 2011, at the Artesia Community Center in Artesia to reflect on the passing of a decade since the catastrophe of 9/11 in 2001. CAPIAA convened *Unheard Voices from Ten Years After 9/11* with co-hosts South Asian Network (SAN) and South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). Congresswoman Judy Chu, Assemblymember Mike Eng, and Assemblymember Warren Furutani gave their reflections on the upcoming anniversary.

The hearing was an important opportunity for community members to share their sense of continued loss and offer solutions for healing. Panelists told their stories about the impact that 9/11 has had on South Asian Americans. The first panel talked about surveillance, racial profiling, and immigration enforcement; the second discussed hate crimes, bullying, and workplace discrimina-

tion. The experiences shared by the panelists were deeply moving—about loss and suffering yet looking towards a future of hope and collaboration.

Representation by leaders from community organizations included Shakeel Syed of the Islamic Shura Council recounting the repeated incidences of surveillance he experienced by the government for simply being Muslim; Vivek Mittal of the National Immigration Law Center presenting the need to think about the growing rates of enforcement with programs such as Secure Communities and E-Verify that also accelerate an atmosphere of fear in immigrant communities; and Mou Khan from SAALT, a national South Asian advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., talking about the hearing as a way for community members to take action locally and nationally.

Policy briefs for the hearing follow, with those that have state and local impact highlighted in bold.

UNHEARD VOICES FROM TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11: POLICY BRIEFS

SURVEILLANCE

- Congress should repeal the USA PATRIOT Act and oppose the See Something, Say Something Act.
- The FBI should restrict the use of its informants so as not to violate the civil and constitutional rights of individuals.
- **Policy makers and administrators should repeal suspicious activity reporting criteria constituting non-criminal behavior at the local and national levels.**
- **The government should improve transparency in all its activities, at all levels.**

RACIAL PROFILING

- Amend the 2003 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Guidance Banning Racial Profiling by Federal Law Enforcement to include profiling based on national origin and religion. The exception providing for national security and border integrity needs to be eliminated.
- **Congress should support the introduction and passage of the End Racial Profiling Act with the most recently proposed amendments. This would prohibit profiling based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin by all levels of law enforcement; require anti-profiling training; ensure data collection and monitoring of law enforcement activities**

UNHEARD VOICES FROM TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11: POLICY BRIEFS, CONTINUED

related to race; and provide legal recourse for victims of racial profiling.

- **All governmental agencies should collect data on stops, encounters, and investigations that use profiling measures related to race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation.**
- The Transportation Security Administration and Customs and Border Protection must routinely and uniformly train officers and agents on civil rights protections afforded to travelers in partnership with organizations serving affected community members.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should end all collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and state and local law enforcement agencies.
- The U.S. government should not use immigration law as the means to fight terrorism.
- The U.S. government should not conflate criminal law enforcement with civil immigration law enforcement.
- DHS should completely terminate the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System (NSEERS)/special registration program and remove barriers to status adjustments thereafter.

HATE CRIMES

- **Congress should amend regulations implementing the Hate Crimes Statistics Act to mandate a special data reporting and collection system on the race, religion, national origin/ethnicity, gender, and age of both the victim and the suspected offender.**
- **All relevant stakeholders should support organization and coalition building between communities of color and other local institutions in order to address some of the barriers to reporting.**
- **Educators should help create and adapt curricula and programs to be incorporated into schools and communities to prevent and combat hate crimes and incidents. This could serve to inform community members about their rights and the resources that are available.**

BULLYING

- The U.S. legal justice system should enforce “religion” and “national origin” as protected classes under Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act particularly when it comes to bullying in public schools and higher institutions.
- Congress should ensure passage of the Safe Schools Improvement Act (S. 506), requiring schools receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment.
- **Congress should support the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Act (HR 975), which requires data from states on bullying and harassment, student perception of school environment, and responsiveness to incidents; requires states to assist schools in preventing and responding to the issue; requires states to track, monitor, and report biased-based bullying.**
- **California’s Assembly and Congress should support state legislation such as California’s AB 9 introduced by Assemblymember Ammiano, which provides for equal rights, protections and enforcement in cases of bullying, harassment and intimidation based on disability, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.**
- **All schools should annually report on incidents of bullying and make bias-based harassment a basis for disciplinary action that is rehabilitative, not simply punitive, in nature.**

WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

- Congress should reintroduce and pass the Workplace Religious Freedom Act (WRFA).
- Congress should support legislative efforts to expand existing federal anti-discrimination policies to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on religious practices and attire, including wearing turbans, headscarves, and beards.
- The U.S. legal system should ensure vigorous enforcement of the laws prohibiting workplace discrimination.

* **State and local policy impact**

PUBLIC HEARING: PLACE-BASED AND REGIONAL APPROACHES TO FUNDING

Community leaders presented their concerns to policy makers and funders about the disparate impacts of place-based/regional funding on Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities. The public hearing, titled *Beyond the Place-based and Regional Approach: Ensuring Community Inclusion*, was held at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in Los Angeles on October 21, 2011. CAPIAA served as convener with the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN). Assemblymember Warren Furutani, Assemblymember Mike Eng, and APIAA Commissioner Noel Alunit heard testimonies with Diane Ujjiye, executive director of APIs CAN, leading the panel. Representatives from public and private entities that employ a place-based or regional approach to their resource allocation sat on the panel as well.

Although not a new strategy, the place-based/regional approaches gained increasing favor over the past several years with public, private, and philanthropic funders. The strategies define and target specific geographic areas for concentrated investment of resources and services over multi-year periods with the goal of measurably improving conditions. Yet, these methods have had mixed results in terms of desired outcomes such as reduction of poverty and economic revitalization of targeted neighborhoods.

The place-based/regional model's impact on APIAs can be exclusionary rather than positive. APIAs have a disproportionately high level of linguistic isolation, geographic dispersion, and cultural diversity that sets them apart from other

communities in need. For example, in Los Angeles County, the APIA population has grown from 13.5 percent in 2000 to 15.7 percent in 2010, with over 45 distinct ethnic groups and more than 28 languages that are dispersed throughout the county. In general, APIAs do not register statistical significance within a predefined place-based area or service planning boundary. This often results in a lack of representation in place-based/regional decision making processes, further isolation from the broader and more diverse APIA network of services and resources, and the perpetuation of the misperception that because APIAs are not present in the place-based decision making or utilizing government programs, they are not in need of resources. Furthermore, APIA needs are often hidden within

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The purpose of the hearing was to learn more about how geographically focused funding approaches impact low income Asian American, Native Hawai'ian and Pacific Islander communities in Los Angeles and throughout California. To share information about this issue, the proceedings heard testimonies, key points, and recommendations from community organizations serving APIAs (see the following page). Representatives from Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, First 5 LA, and the U.S. Department of Education—all entities that use place-based/regional funding—offered their responses and recommendations.

The public testimonies lay the foundation for continuing dialogue among funding entities, community organizations, and policy makers on the place-based/regional funding model.

PLACE-BASED AND REGIONAL FUNDING: KEY POINTS, COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS, AND STEPS FOR FUNDERS

KEY POINTS AND THEMES

- APIA communities are defined by cultural affinity, not geography.
- Aggregated statistical data mask needs of APIA communities.
- Cultural competency is not simply language skills, but requires community knowledge and trust.
- Building community capacity and infrastructure is critical for effective service delivery to APIAs.
- Place-based funding threatens the sustainability of culturally competent organizations already effectively serving APIAs.
- Responsibility to APIA Californians goes beyond supporting one or two APIA communities.

COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create mechanisms for community organizations outside of targeted boundaries to work with service-eligible populations within the targeted place or region.
- Provide population-based, as well as place-based, funding to ensure culturally competent organizations serving geographically dispersed cultural/language communities can receive sufficient resources to meet critical community needs.
- Base needs analysis on disaggregated data that identify disparities in healthcare and other services, taking into consideration that communities are not always tied to a specific neighborhood.
- Enable community-based organizations that work with specific populations to define “high-need” for their communities, as that definition may go beyond the traditional criteria of annual household income and similar socioeconomic indicators.

- Include APIA community leaders and community members when developing these types of funding initiatives.
- Invest in community capacity and infrastructure building through supporting the development of community organizations serving APIAs.
- Ensure that place-based initiatives include a process where language access and cultural considerations are at the forefront of program development and not an afterthought.
- Ensure that organizations being funded demonstrate linguistic and cultural competency to serve and work with all eligible residents and communities within the place or region.
- Encourage organizations that do not have the capacity to serve a segment of the population to partner with the organizations that have that demonstrated competence.

STEPS FOR FUNDERS TO ADDRESS CULTURAL COMPETENCY

- Develop cultural competency for organizations funded under the place-based/ regional structure through training by APIA organizations.
- Require proposals for funding to specifically describe their cultural competency.
- Provide resources such as translation services.
- Have funding organizations outside the defined place/region to serve APIAs in the area.
- Offer a mix of place-based and population-based funding.
- Encourage subcontracts to organizations with APIA expertise.

PUBLIC HEARING: THE STATE OF CAMBODIAN AMERICAN YOUTH



Khmer Girls in Action co-sponsored the hearing; Jonathan Tran of Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, Commissioner Noel Alunit, Lian Cheun of Khmer Girls in Action; the audience; panelists at the informational hearing.

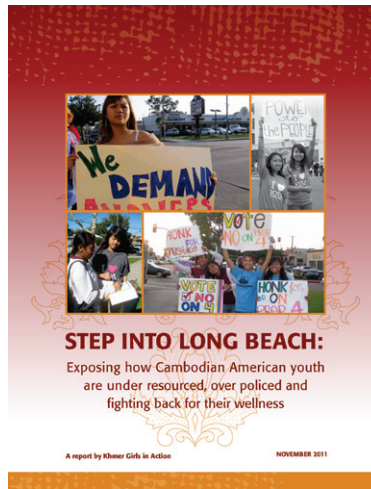
The APIAA Commission convened a public informational hearing to hear testimony about the needs and concerns of Cambodian American youth. The hearing took place on November 15, 2011, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Community Center in Long Beach. Sponsors included the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, California Legislative Women's Caucus, and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and

Pacific Islanders. Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) served as co-sponsors. APIAA Commissioner Noel Alunit facilitated the hearing with Assemblymembers Warren Furutani, Bonnie Lowenthal, and Mike Eng.

Issues faced by Cambodian American youth came to the forefront, providing a platform for policy recommendations to state elected officers. The hearing also inaugurated the release of KGA's groundbreaking report, "Step Into Long Beach: Exposing How Cambodian American Youth are Under Resourced, Over Policed and Fighting Back for Their Wellness." Panels of youth presented high priority issues and KGA and SEARAC staff proposed policy recommendations.

Excerpts from the report present a backdrop to the Cambodian community and its youth:

"As a newer immigrant community to arrive in the United States, second generation Cambodian Americans experienced unique



challenges in adapting to mainstream American culture. While the Cambodian population is dispersed throughout the United States, Long Beach, California, has the largest population of Cambodians outside of Cambodia. We hope that our focus on Long Beach as the research site provides insights into issues specific to all Cambodian American communities. More broadly,

we hope that these issues are also applicable to all second generation youth in urban communities....

"In this report we present the experiences and opinions of second generation Cambodian American youth, much of which has not been formally documented. This report is groundbreaking for a myriad of reasons. Youth developed, disseminated, and analyzed a survey of approximately 500 youth in Long Beach, California. They also conducted focus groups and analyzed and disseminated these findings as well. Their findings highlight issues that touch upon every aspect of their lives, from parental expectations to racial profiling to sex and sexuality."

Following are the policy recommendations heard at the proceedings. To view KGA's full report and read more about Cambodian youth in Long Beach, please visit kgalb.org.

STATE OF CAMBODIAN AMERICAN YOUTH: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

The challenge of educational attainment and access can be addressed with more culturally relevant education beyond the traditional cultural celebrations. Support for programs that reach out to immigrant communities can ensure access to available educational information and resources. The panelists used this opportunity to ask policy makers and CAPIAA to continue to serve as liaisons between the community and school district officials, because immigrant communities often face difficulties in accessing key decision makers.

HEALTH

Many in the Cambodian American community struggle with insurance coverage, high medical fees, language barriers, and access to health information. Oftentimes, parents rely on youth to serve as translators with medical authorities, which inadvertently shifts the responsibility of caring for family onto young people. Panelists cited difficulties in access to sexual and health education and the high rate of mental health problems that go untreated in immigrant communities. Panelists recommended that legislators follow through with the implementation of Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act, ensuring that it offers proper language and cultural competency. They also highlighted the need for thorough sexual health education, beyond abstinence-only instruction.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Panelists testified about their experiences as male Cambodian American youth are disproportionately stopped by police officers, racially profiled, and presumed to be gang-affiliated. Indeed, many youth have had negative experiences of being mistrusted and handled in a disrespectful and condescending manner. Panelists recommended the implementation of youth advisory councils and heavier scrutiny of racial profiling and the criminalization of youth. With a trusting relationship, law enforcement can better address the needs of the community with productive and lasting solutions.

IMMIGRATION

Since the 1996 change in immigration law, retroactive deportation has heavily impacted Cambodian American families. Youth in particular are witnessing the criminalization and forced separation of members of their family, many of whom help support and bring income into the household. This has resulted in broken family structures, economic hardships, and a heavy toll on the mental health of the youth. As Secure Communities has shown, there is a growing linkage between local law enforcement and immigration law enforcement. Members of the community asked for systematic ways to address deportation issues such as legal aid services and support for community organizing. Elected officials and the Commission were also asked to voice condemnation of the harsh immigration measures and retroactive deportation.

MEET AND GREET IN THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.

On November 18, 2011, more than 20 APIA community leaders from throughout the state met with Alexis Wilson, deputy director of external affairs of the Governor’s Office in Sacramento. The session was facilitated by APIAA Commissioner Catherine ‘Ofa Mann and followed a Capitol tour organized by staff of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. The Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) hosted a reception for all the attendees.



Leaders and activists representing the wide spectrum of APIA community service organizations met with Governor Brown’s office at a meet and greet in November.

During this opportunity to meet with Governor Brown’s office, APIA leaders introduced their organizations’ mission and programs. Representation from the wide diversity of ethnicities and broad spectrum of community services ranged from mental health, medical support, and health prevention programs;



Capitol tour led by the API Legislative Caucus.

adult English language and translation services; cultural media; and family programs such as after school youth projects and domestic violence services. The common thread in the presentations was the need for more funding to be able to continue providing services and resources to APIA communities in need.

Ms. Wilson’s closing remarks conveyed that the state government is in the red with no funding availability. But she encouraged APIA leaders not to give up and to continue exploring other sources of funding. She wrapped up the session by thanking all who took time to attend the meet and greet.

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 67
NATIVE HAWAI’IAN PACIFIC ISLANDER RECOGNITION**

Joining with Native Hawai’ian and Pacific Islander community leaders and organizations throughout California, Commissioner Tana Lepule championed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 67 (ACR 67), which was introduced by Assemblymember Warren Furutani on June, 2011. California has one of the largest Native Hawai’ian and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S., and ACR 67 recognizes the cultural and social contributions of this thriving population. Chaptered by the Secretary of State in September, 2011, the resolution recognizes the important role that NHPIs play in the social, economic, and political development of California throughout the state’s history. It also encourages all federal, state, and local organizations to promote the preservation of NHPI history and culture.

California Commission on Asian and
Pacific Islander American Affairs

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For PDFs of Commission annual reports:
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