





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: CIRIAN VILLAVICENCIO



Many are not aware that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) now account for the fastest growing minority group in the nation, surpassing Latinos/Hispanics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, AAPIs make up the largest share of recent immigrants and now comprise 5.8% of the U.S. population. This trend will only continue to grow. According to APIA Vote and AAPI Data, California in 2016 was home to 6.3 million AAPIs – an increase of 45% from 2000. This past presidential election, there were over 3.7 million eligible AAPI voters in California, which accounts to close to 15% of California's overall voting electorate. The make up of AAPIs being elected to state offices has also increased. The California API Legislative Caucus now have sixteen members.

These recent demographic trends show that AAPIs across our state and nation have the potential to play a pivotal role in shaping public policy today and in the future. The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CCAPIAA) serves an important role in this process. As the state's only minority citizen commission, CCAPIAA primarily serves as the conduit between AAPI groups and state policymakers to highlight important issues and challenges affecting the California AAPI community.

To achieve this mission CCAPIAA conducts hearings across the state and hear from AAPI policy experts, community leaders, and activists. In 2016, CCAPIAA conducted four hearings in Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Diego and concluded the first hearing of 2017 at Santa Clara/Silicon Valley. As chair, I was also privileged to represent CCAPIAA on a fact finding mission to Cambodia with Assemblymembers Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara) and Evan Low (D-San Jose) to investigate human and sex trafficking.

This report summarizes CCAPIAA major achievements, important findings from our hearings throughout the state, and substantial policy recommendations to state policymakers that we feel will address the needs of the AAPI community living in our great state.

While this report's primary audience is the Governor and the leadership in the California State Legislature, it is also intended for the general public interested in helping advance AAPI issues. We hope that you find the content of this report informative and valuable.

Chair Emeritus Cirian Villavicencio  
2016 - 2017 Chair

### MISSION

The mission of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CCAPIAA) 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.

### CHARGE

The charge 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 views, needs, and concerns of the state's Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.
- Assist the state in being an effective liaison and conduct outreach with Asian and Pacific Islander American communities through information dissemination concerning public and private programs beneficial to their interests.
- Examine issues of access and cultural language sensitivity by state agencies, departments, and commissions.
- Provide assistance to policymakers 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.



## 2016 - 2017: ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Chairman Villavicencio accompanied by Asm. Rob Bonta (D-Oakland) testified before the California State Assembly Higher Education Committee in support of AB 1726 - The AHEAD Act

### ■ AB 1726 – The AHEAD Act

CCAPIAA partnered with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) to pass AB 1726 (Bonta), the Accounting for Health and Education in API Demographics Act, which was signed by Governor Brown on September 25, 2016. CCAPIAA led efforts by holding hearings in 2015 in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Riverside, Oakland and Sacramento in support of the bill. In addition, commissioners spoke at press conferences, participated in legislative visits, wrote press statements and support letters, provided testimony and promoted the bill on social media.

This new law will provide California's Department of Public Health with more granular data on the diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) populations it serves. Additionally, the California State University and University of California systems have agreed to voluntarily release their disaggregated student data. It will disaggregate demographic data for the following populations: Bangladeshi, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Fijian, and Tongan Americans. The data collected will include rates on admission, enrollment, completion and graduation in the education field, and disease rates, health insurance coverage, and birth and death rates for the health field. Better data on the different needs of our communities translates to more effective public health strategies that saves lives. This data will be publicly accessible so that researchers can analyze it, community organizations can develop outreach programs, and individuals can have the information necessary to advocate for their own health and education.

### ■ AB 60 – Driver License for Undocumented Immigrants

Assembly bill AB 60 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue an original driver license to an applicant who is unable to submit satisfactory proof of legal residence in the U.S.

CCAPIAA discovered through testimony shared by the Korean Resource Center in Los Angeles that a backlog had developed for thousands of undocumented AAPIs who were not receiving their California Driver License in a timely manner. Speakers shared concerns that individuals ineligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) not allowed to work without authorization, did not receive notices from DMV after 6-9 months upon submitting an application for a driver license.

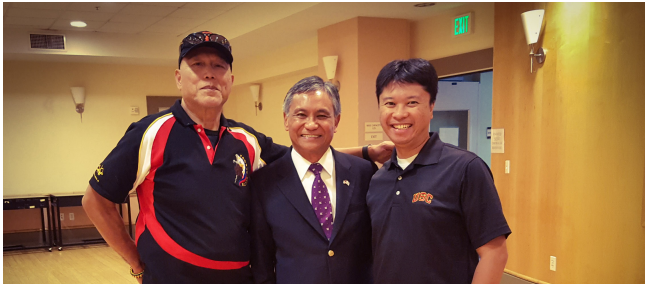
To address the challenge, CCAPIAA coordinated two successful conference calls during December 2015 and April 2016 with the Korean Resource Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Governor's Office, and DMV Officials to discover the cause and develop solutions to the backlog. Through these meetings, it was discovered that some of the common procedural challenges faced by applicants included:

- 1) DMV requested national documents that were beyond national regulations.
- 2) DMV did not collect data so there was no transparency as to the number of individuals eligible to apply for driver's licenses and number of applicants awaiting approval.
- 3) DMV removed APOSTLE requirements, which made it more difficult to acquire a driver license, particularly, for Korean immigrants from South Korea.

In addition, limited language access exacerbated backlogs of applicants awaiting notices from DMV. After identifying these challenges, CCAPIAA coordinated efforts among stakeholders to provide recommendations to address the challenges. CCAPIAA's efforts allowed the DMV to find solutions that streamlined the review process and connected the DMV officials to AAPI embassies to agree upon recognized national documents. CCAPIAA also recommended that DMV track the applicants' needs for materials to be translated into AAPI languages. With these efforts, DMV significantly reduced the backlog.



## 2016 - 2017: ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HR 2737: Chairman Villavicencio with Major Antonio Taguba advocating for Filipino WWII veterans in San Francisco, CA

### ■ H.R. 2737/S. 1555 – Filipino WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act

CCAPIAA coordinated efforts with FilVets Recognition Project, Bataan Legacy Historical Society, and a national coalition of Fil-Am community based organizations to support bills H.R. 2737 (Gabbard) and S. 1555 (Hirono), the Filipino World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015. This landmark bill signed by President Obama into law on December 2016 finally affirmed the United States' gratitude towards Filipino WWII Veterans for their service.

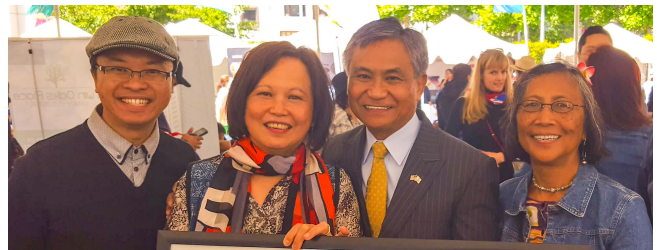
On February 18, 1946, two months after Filipino soldiers completed their wartime service to the United States, Congress passed the first of two Rescission Acts stripping their status as U.S. veterans and effectively denying their rightful benefits. At the time, the Philippines was a U.S. territory and Filipinos were considered U.S. nationals. Although they were sworn in by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as members of the United States Army Forces of the Far East (USAFPE), they were deprived of equal protection and equal treatment as U.S. nationals—rights enjoyed by their fellow American soldiers who fought the same battles in defense of the same United States flag.

Despite the essential role Filipino soldiers played in the United States victory in the Pacific during World War II, their contributions in defending democracy and liberty were totally ignored. Instead, the U.S. government denied them one important right given to everyone else who has served in the United States Military—the right to veterans' benefits. Of the 66 allied nations who fought with the U.S. in World War II, only the Philippines was singled out by the Rescission Acts of 1946.

In 2009, almost 63 years later, Congress eventually granted them one-time lump sum payments as financial compensation—\$15,000 each for those who are US citizens and \$9,000 each for non-US citizens.

CCAPIAA sent support letters to California House members, Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and the White House. Chairman Villavicencio organized grassroots mobilization in support of the bill and connected MSNBC's Richard Lui with Major General Antonio Taguba to do a national-broadcasted interview about the bill in July 2016.

CCAPIAA is proud to have played a role in supporting this momentous decision by Congress honoring Filipino World War II veterans. To all Filipino WWII veterans, thank you.



State Board of Education: Chairman Villavicencio with Major Antonio Taguba and Cecilia Gaerlan from the Bataan Legacy Historical Society promoting the role of Filipinos during WWII in San Francisco, CA

### ■ State Board of Education Approves History of Filipinos During WWII Curriculum

CCAPIAA worked with the Bataan Legacy Historical Society and the California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to write support letters to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) and State Board of Education (SBE) to pass recommendations set by Bataan Legacy Historical Society to have the history of Filipinos in WWII be taught for the very first time in California public schools. Chairman Villavicencio testified at the Instructional Quality Commission hearing in support of the recommendations at the California Department of Education.

The recommendations were passed unanimously by the IQC and the SBE, making this an historic moment to integrate the contributions of Filipino WWII veterans within the 11th grade U.S. History curriculum for the first time in the U.S.



## SPECIAL REPORT: COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Chairman Villavicencio Joins a California State Delegation to Cambodia to Learn How to Combat Human Trafficking in California By Cirian Villavicencio



Chairman Villavicencio with Assemblymembers Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara), Evan Low (D-San Jose), Captain James Gonzales of the San Jose Police Department, and Sarah Singh from 3 Strands Global at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This past December, I had the opportunity to travel to Phnom Penh as part of a California state delegation to investigate human trafficking in Cambodia. I accompanied Assemblymembers Evan Low (28th AD-Silicon Valley), Das Williams (37th AD-Santa Barbara), and other community leaders including Capt. James Gonzales of the San Jose Police Department and Sarah Singh from 3Strands Global, whose organization helps combat human trafficking in our state. Many people are unaware that California is one of the top destinations for human trafficking in the country. Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide annually, and is the fastest growing illegal criminal industry.

The purpose of our trip was to learn more about human trafficking and ways we, in our capacity as community and state leaders, could help affect change by both raising awareness in the public and private sectors and introducing legislation that could combat this illicit trade.

Our trip took us to Svey Pak, Cambodia, the capital of child sex tourism. There, we saw traffickers sell young girls as young as five years old for sex. We visited with Don and Bridget Brewster (U.S. ex-pats from Roseville, California) who founded Agape International Missions (AIM) whose undertaking is to prosecute human traffickers while rescuing and rehabilitating trafficked victims. We were surprised to discover that AIM had a SWAT team that works with local police to perform raids on brothels. Since AIM's founding in 2004, it has rescued more than 7,000 girls from this illicit trade.

While human trafficking remains a huge challenge in Cambodia, it is also here in California. According to the Polaris Project, California is a hotspot for human trafficking cases in the U.S. In fact, 1,323 trafficking cases were reported in 2016, which many experts agree

are underreported. Labor trafficking also exists mainly in the agricultural, domestic-work, and food services sectors of the economy.

This illicit trade harms our communities. It is imperative that we acknowledge human trafficking exists in our neighborhoods and cities so we are prepared to combat this problem and protect the most vulnerable populations from becoming victims.



Chairman Villavicencio and Sarah Singh from 3Strands Global with Don and Bridget Brewster, the founders of Agape International Missions, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



## CCAPIAA & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Former President Bill Clinton addresses the crowd of four thousand AAPI leaders gathered in Las Vegas, NV

### ■ 2016 Presidential Election Candidates Forum

Commissioners Cirian Villavicencio, Karthick Ramakrishnan and Helen Lee joined over 4,000 people at the Colosseum Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on August 12, 2016 to hear from four Presidential candidates or their surrogates. The event was hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) and Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) in a partnership with over thirty professional and community organizations.

Moderated by Robert Lui, anchor of NBC Early Today and MSNBC, in an one-on-one format, former President Bill Clinton and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes

spoke on behalf of the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees, respectively. The audience received direct comments from Libertarian candidate, former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate, Dr. Jill Stein. NBC Asian America also featured live commentary for online viewers before and after the Presidential Election Forum, and Commissioner Ramakrishnan provided data and commentary related to AAPI voters.

The event was an unprecedented instance of presidential candidates reaching out to a fast-growing but historically untapped electorate. The forum aimed to make clear the potential power of voters with Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage.



Commissioner Helen Lee at the APIAVote Presidential Town Hall 2016



## CCAPIAA HONORS AAPI LEADERSHIP

### Recognizing Leadership and Commitment to the Advancement of AAPIs

The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs recognized the following leaders and organizations for exemplary leadership and commitment in service and advocacy for the social, economic, health, education, and civic advancement of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the State of California.

Amanda Solomon Amorao, Executive Director, Kuya Ate Mentorship Program (KAMP)  
Andrea Guerrero, Executive Director, Equity Alliance of San Diego County  
Audrey Spencer, Director, Hui O Hawai'i of San Diego  
Buck Gee, Co-VP of Corporate Executive Initiative, Ascend  
C.C. Yin, Founder, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)  
Carl Waters, Chief Operating Officer, Operation Samahan Health Centers  
Carol Ou Lin, Executive Director, Taiwanese American Community Center  
Cynthia Bonta, President, Philippine National Day Association  
Don Sun, President, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) Tri Valley Chapter  
Dr. Allen Chan, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Advisors, Asian Pacific American Coalition  
Dr. Sonney Chong, Chair, Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy & Leadership (CAPITAL)  
Frank Du, Founder and Executive Director, Three Treasures Cultural Arts Society  
Frank Vuong, President, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Little Saigon Foundaton  
Joseph Taumua, President, Pacific Islander Festival Association  
Judy Ki, Former CAPIAA Commissioner, Educator, Advocate  
Kathy Ko Chin, Executive Director, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)  
Kent Lee, Executive Director, Pacific Arts Movement (Pac Arts)  
Kiki Sotoa Solia, Director, Samoan Community Council of San Diego  
Leafa Taumoepeau, Taulama for Tongans  
Linda Ng, Advisor/Business Advisory Council Member, OCA National  
Liz Lynn, Volunteer, Sacramento Pacific Islander Leadership Forum (SPILF)  
Lucy Oback, Executive Director, To'utupu 'oe 'Otu Felenite Association (TOFA) Inc.  
Maeley Tom, Asian State Legislative Staff Caucus, California Joint API Legislative Institute, Senate Office Asian Pacific Affairs, and Association of Asian American Investment Managers  
Mai Nguyen, Coordinator, Vietnamese Community of Sacramento Little Saigon Tet Parade & Luna Flower Fest  
Malissa Netane, Manager of Prevention Programs, Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center  
Marie R. "Mona" Foster, Founder, Hui o Hawaii of Sacramento Inc.  
Michael Makato Honda, Congressman  
Patsy M. Tito, Executive Director, Samoan Community Development Center  
Penu Pau'u, Retired Police Chief of National City  
Reverend Malakai Lose, Board Member, To'utupu 'oe 'Otu Felenite Association (TOFA) Inc.  
Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance  
Robin Tarr, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Jonathan Tarr Foundation  
Roxanna Bautista, Senior Director of Engagement Strategies, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Sally Wong-Avery, Founder, Executive Director, Chinese Service Center of San Diego  
Sarita Kohli, Interim President/CEO, Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)  
Stephanie Nguyen, Executive Director, Asian Resources Center  
Sukh C. Singh, General Secretary, Indus Valley American Chamber of Commerce  
Taunu'u Ve'e, Pacific Islander Task Force-Chair





Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) and Congressman Mike Honda with Chairman Villavicencio.

The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs proudly presented the Honorable Michael Makoto Honda with a Lifetime Service Award in recognition of his many years of service as an elected official of remarkable integrity and conviction, who has advanced the causes of underrepresented communities by promoting social justice, racial tolerance, and civil rights for all Americans.

As a proud sansei, Congressman Mike Honda is a third-generation Japanese American and a native son of California. He was born in Walnut Grove in 1941 and interned, from the age of one, with his family in Camp Amanche in Colorado during World War II. His family returned to California and farmed strawberries in Blossom Valley in San Jose, where he grew up and attended public schools. He then enrolled as an undergraduate and graduate student at San Jose State University, where he interrupted his studies for two years' service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. Congressman Honda earned a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and Spanish and a Master's degree in Education. For 30 years, he worked as a distinguished public school educator and administrator.

Congressman Honda's first election victory in 1981 won him a place on the Board of the San Jose Unified School District that then lead him to a lifelong commitment to public service. Congressman Honda won election to

the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors in 1990, to the California State Assembly in 1996, and to the United States Congress in 2000, where he represented, respectively, the 15th Congressional District and the 17th Congressional District.

Over the course of a total of 16 years of laudable and transformative congressional service, Congressman Honda has been honored many times over for his courage, immutable commitment to achieving true equality for all, and passionate advocacy on behalf of the voiceless, the dispossessed, and those from underrepresented populations whose hopes, needs, and ambitions have too often been overlooked.

Possessed of a list of accomplishments that others with many times his length of congressional service might envy, Congressman Honda successfully secured over \$1.3 billion in appropriations and championed, among diverse other causes, raising the minimum wage, returning American troops from Afghanistan and Iraq, increasing government transparency and ethics, enhancing STEM education, combating global warming, eliminating human trafficking, enacting and defending the Affordable Care Act, expanding the Social Security program, and vigorously defending the civil rights and religious freedoms of all Americans.

As an esteemed Member of Congress and a much-loved Californian, Congressman Mike Honda has responded to the myriad challenges that face the State of California and the nation with intelligence, fortitude, generosity of spirit, and uncompromising engagement, all of which have served to advance the causes he holds most dear while also exemplifying his lifelong devotion to public service.

The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs congratulate Congressman Michael Makoto Honda upon his receipt of the Lifetime Service Award, and commend and thank him for his indefatigable public service that, for 36 years, has made possible a better quality of life for countless Californians as well as tens of millions of Americans nationwide.



Honorable Congressman Mike Honda presented with Lifetime Service Award by Assemblymember Ash Kalra and Commissioners.



## HEARINGS & KEY FINDINGS

### ■ AB 60 – Driver License for Undocumented Immigrants

Access to a driver license enable undocumented immigrants to work and attend school. According to recent reports, there are 412,000 APIA undocumented immigrants in California. Of those, a large number, about 63,000, are Korean immigrants residing in southern California. Speakers from the Korean Resource Center shared concerns that individuals ineligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) not allowed to work without authorization have not received notices from DMV after 6-9 months upon submitting an application for a driver license. Some of the common procedural challenges faced by applicants included: 1) DMV requested national documents that were beyond national regulations, 2) DMV currently does not collect data so there is no transparency as to the number of individuals eligible to apply for a driver license and number of applicants awaiting approval, and 3) DMV removed APOSTLE requirements, which made it more difficult to acquire a driver license, particularly, for Korean immigrants from South Korea. Lack of language access increased current backlogs of applicants awaiting notices from DMV. Currently, letters for primary and secondary reviews for release of information issued to applicants are only written in English and translated into Spanish. DMV currently does not track applicants' needs for materials to be translated into Asian languages.

### ■ Hate Crimes

A recent report found that American Muslim youth being bullied in schools have been underreported. In a survey of 621 participants, 55% of youth were subject to bullying, and 52% of youth experienced verbal bullying. Additionally, 1 out of 3 youth were discriminated by a teacher or staff. Discrimination and hate incidences promote Islamophobia. [See Report: Mislabeled: The Impact of School Bullying and Discrimination on CA Muslim Students. URL: <https://ca.cair.com/sfba/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CAIR-CA-2015-Bullying-Report-Web.pdf>]

Groups that have experienced high rates of hate crimes, bullying, and violence expressed the need to have schools and communities serve as safe havens for all students and foster strong relationships founded on the appreciation and understanding of diversity among teachers, students, and staff of all cultures and backgrounds. All students have the right to be valued in school and in their communities.

Although California has one of the strongest laws to fight bullying and religious discrimination, implementation continues to be a problem. Further conversations among local and statewide institutions, entities, and community groups is crucial to the development of solutions that will end hate crimes against Muslims, Sikhs, and any other groups.



## POLICY PRIORITIES: A MORE INCLUSIVE CALIFORNIA

The following policy priorities aim to promote a just and more inclusive California that honors the histories and contributions of diverse communities, the long-standing values that shape this state as a leader in ingenuity, innovation, and transforms all communities so that all Californians can live safe, be healthy, and prosper.

### **AB 60 – Driver License for Undocumented Immigrants**

- Continue to support and facilitate ongoing strategies in partnership with DMV, Governor's Office, and community-based organizations to improve DMV's implementation of AB 60. The current DMV regulations around verification of identification documents, review and approval process present ongoing challenges for applicants.
- Improve the application, review and approval process not limited to the following: 1) implement a plan to improve language access to immigrants by providing in-language support to limited English applicants, translate follow up review letters to threshold languages of Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese, and others as needed, 2) translate and attach notices that inform applicants of the right to an interpreter and the appropriate hotline phone numbers, 3) include deadlines to revised regulations for timely evaluation and processing of applications, including secondary review process, 4) review and consider alternative identity verification documentation, such as Department of Health Services' standards, and modify verification requirements to be less onerous for AAPI immigrants and other immigrants (i.e. re-establish birth certificate with an APOSTLE as one of the acceptable forms of primary identification), 5) collaboration between DMV and community based organizations to monitor the progress of applicants requiring a secondary review.
- DMV staff are trained, fully knowledgeable of the most current identification verification documents, and provide the highest quality of services to effectively problem solve without assumption or discrimination of applicants' immigration status or eligibility to receive a driver license.

### **Protections of AAPIs Against Hate Crimes**

- Support the collection and analysis of hate crimes data to include bullying, racial and religious discrimination, and other crimes.
- Use data to inform the development of new policies and improve enforcement of existing hate crime laws.
- Educate constituents about hate crimes to increase awareness around hate crimes, victims rights, and

assist victims to seek appropriate support as needed.

- Ensure there are resources to: 1) support collaboration among community groups and law enforcement agencies to identify and implement best practices for pre-crisis outreach and plans for immediate response to a trigger incident (9/11 or San Bernardino crisis), and 2) support community organizations providing education and assistance to hate crimes victims through training, capacity building, funding and coordination of partnerships.
- Establish and improve relations between community groups, local, and federal law enforcement agencies (police departments, district attorney office, department of justice) to better prevent and investigate hate crimes through commissions, support groups, advocacy, meetings, etc.
- Cross-cultural education and professional development opportunities through workshops and trainings for educators, law enforcement, community groups and organizations.
- Schools should foster strong relationships between students, staff, and administrators founded on the appreciation for the diverse cultures and backgrounds of all groups. All students have the right to be valued in school and in their communities. Policies should improve the awareness of the contributions and experiences of Muslim and Sikhs in school curriculum, and increase public awareness and understanding of the lived experiences, discriminations, and ongoing challenges of these groups in the media and social media.

### **Access to Affordable Health Care for All**

- Ensure healthcare coverage through Medicaid (Medi-Cal ) expansion, financial assistance (tax credit assistance and cost-sharing) to afford and purchase private health plan through Covered California's health exchange for those most vulnerable such as low-income communities, individuals newly insured under the Affordable Care Act, and undocumented immigrants.

### **Opportunities to Pursue Higher Education and Career Readiness**

- All students from pre-K through grade 12 with the most needs including low-income, English language



## **POLICY PRIORITIES: A MORE INCLUSIVE CALIFORNIA**

learners, homeless, and foster youth receive the highest quality of supports and resources so that they graduate on time and are on the pathway to higher education.

- Students in junior college and universities (public and private) can afford the tuition to enroll in and stay in college.
- Career readiness programs that include vocational training, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships and opportunities to provide students and disconnected youth – youth not in school nor working – the chance to prepare to enter the workforce.

### **Racial and Identity Profiling Act 2015 (AB 953)**

- Require California law enforcement agencies to uniformly collect and report data on stops, frisks, and other encounters with communities.
- Establish a third party such as an advisory board to oversee mandatory reporting and analysis of data, and develop recommendations to address problems of racial profiling.
- Align California's definition of racial and identity profiling with federal recommendations to include other demographic characteristics, such as gender and sexual orientation.

### **Anti-Displacement, Affordable Housing, Community and Economic Development/Investment, Preservation of Diversity**

- Land use planning that engages residents and places the needs of low-income communities, vulnerable populations, and impoverished neighborhoods at the forefront of policies and decision making around investment, access to affordable housing, transportation, and community and economic development, safe drinking water, clean air, along with protections from environmental pollutions.
- Respects and affirms the diverse cultures, heritages, and encourages understanding and discourages anti-discrimination to promote a more inclusive California for all.

### **Protections for Students, Families and Immigrants**

- Schools are not to serve as an enforcement arm of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) but rather, serve as “safe havens” where all students, including undocumented students, feel safe to learn,

along with their parents, have access to counsel and supports within the school district to address fears and concerns around threats of deportation. Schools will uphold existing laws that protect students' records from questions about immigration status.

- Enforce 2014 TRUST Act barring local jails from detaining undocumented non-felons against federal ICE agents' requests.
- Refusal of local law enforcement agencies to hold immigrants beyond their jail sentences.
- Prevent mass deportations of undocumented immigrants and the creation of a criminal justice pipeline into the federal immigration system by limiting local government contracts with ICE to use city jails to detain immigrants.
- Protect undocumented immigrants' rights by ensuring that local government agencies and law enforcement refrain from asking residents about their immigration status.

### **Increase overall AAPI Executive Leadership**

- Increase the number of AAPI leaders on executive boards in the business sector.
- Encourage State pension funds CalPERS and CalSTRS to drive and demand proof of diversity by investing in companies that require 20% to 25% diversity on their boards.
- Expand outreach and education efforts to diversity and business leaders that improve understanding of the Asian bamboo ceiling narrative and implications on the training and recruitment of AAPIs for executive leadership.
- Support policies that encourages culturally-specific leadership training programs and initiatives and offers resources to fund long-term and permanent training to improve greater representation of diversity among executive boards.
- Work with the Commission on the Status of Women to support policies that acknowledges and pushes the integration of the Asian Bamboo ceiling into existing women's glass ceiling programs to further develop and implement targeted affirmative outreach to AAPI women as part of executive leadership recruitment efforts.





## SPEICAL THANKS

CCAPIAA desires to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their generosity. Without them, CCAPIAA would not have been able to fulfill its mission in conducting meetings and hearings throughout the state of California:

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA)

Former Chair & Commissioner Phong La

Commissioner Joel F. Jacinto, Los Angeles Board of Public Works

City of Los Angeles

Former Commissioner Tamiko Wong

Oakland Asian Cultural Center

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond & Staff

Former Commissioner Ann Shimisaki

California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

Assemblymember Rob Bonta & Staff

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez & Staff

Dr. Edwin Tan, Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Fr. Michael E. Engh, Santa Clara University

Mission Valley Branch Library, San Diego

University of California at Riverside

Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society

Minh Pham, Intern, University of the Pacific

Steve Luong, Intern



## ABOUT THE COMMISSIONERS: 2016 - 2017



### **Chair**

**Emeritus Cirian Villavicencio**, from Elk Grove, is the Chair of the Political Science Department at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton. Active in politics, he worked on several statewide and national political campaigns and served on the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee. He

was twice a state delegate to the California Democratic State Conventions in 2009-10 and 2016-18 and was twice a delegate for the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and in 2012. Villavicencio is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is currently ABD All But Dissertation at the University of Wyoming specializing in the area of Adult Post-Secondary Education & Administration.



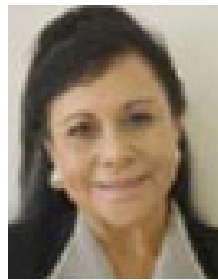
**Vice Chair MaiKa Yang**, from Fresno, was born in Laos and as a refugee of the Vietnam War, immigrated with her family to the United States at the age of six. She proudly resides in Fresno County—home to California's 5th largest city of Fresno. Ms. Yang received an undergraduate degree in community and regional

development from the University of California at Davis and a Master's Degree in leadership studies from Fresno Pacific University. A former executive director, Ms. Yang has over 20 years of experience working with refugee and immigrant groups, nonprofit administration, leadership and organization development, community building and public relations.



**Secretary Rajan Gill**, from Yuba City, is a Historian and Professor at Yuba College. Gills academic career began at the University of California, Davis where he served as vice-president to the History Honors Society. Gill completed his Masters in History at the University of California, Santa Cruz where he researched the Indian Diaspora in

California.



**Treasurer Catherine O'fa Mann**, from Sacramento, is the founder and president of TOFA of Sacramento. She spearheads the effort to support the growing numbers of Pacific Islanders in the greater Sacramento area. Her leadership roles include numerous community nonprofits as well as the Sacramento City Unified

School District. 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.



## ABOUT THE COMMISSIONERS: 2016 - 2017



### **Chair-Elect**

#### **Karthick Ramakrishnan,**

from Riverside, is associate dean of the UC Riverside School of Public Policy, and professor of public policy and political science. He is also a Board Member of The California Endowment and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He received his

Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University, and has held fellowships at the Russell Sage Foundation, Woodrow Wilson Center, and Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).



### **Vice Chair Ray Buenaventura,**

from Daly City, is Member of the Daly City Council and served as the city's Mayor in 2013 and 2015. Prior to his service on the City Council, Ray served as Library Commissioner on the Daly City Library Board of Trustees. Ray is also an Attorney and Certified Criminal Law Specialist. He has

been practicing law for over 23 years focusing on indigent criminal defense. Ray served on the CA State Bar Criminal Law Advisory Commission and on the governing board of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ).



### **Treasurer Jihee Huh,**

from Rolling Hills, serves as Vice Chairman and Vice President of New Venture Development at Pacific American Fish Company, Inc. Mrs. Huh oversees Pacific American Fish product development and marketing operations. Mrs. Huh serves as Trustee of Southern California Public Radio. Mrs. Huh

served an array of management functions and was a human rights activist.



### **Commissioner EunSook Lee,**

from Torrance, is currently a consultant whose clients include the Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Fund and Korean American Women In Need. For seven years, Lee served as the executive director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, which

promotes Korean American participation in American society.



## ABOUT THE COMMISSIONERS: 2016 - 2017



**Commissioner Christina Wu**, from San Diego, is the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants and she was raised in San Diego. She spent over a decade working in Massachusetts politics and government for U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Obama for America 2008 and U.S. Congressman Joseph P.

Kennedy III. Christina is currently a Project Coordinator at Sharp Health Plan. Christina is a graduate of Boston University and resides in San Diego.



**Commissioner Rachel Buenviaje**, from Redondo Beach, is a Marketing Manager for Nike, Inc. She is also a member of Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Filipino Women's Network, Culture Shock LA, and Women in Sports & Events.



**Commissioner John Ho Song**, from Los Angeles, is the Executive Director of Koreatown Youth and Community Center, a nonprofit organization that serves the recently immigrated and economically disadvantaged youth and families of the multicultural Koreatown community. Mr. Song oversees a diverse workforce of

over 80 employees with an annual operating budget of over \$6.5 million.



**Emeritus Commissioner Steven Ma**, from Cupertino, founded ThinkTank Learning in 2002, growing it into a multi-service education firm providing academic tutoring, test prep, and college consulting services with offices in the Bay Area and China. Actively involved in education issues and advocacy, Mr. Ma served as chair

of the International Leadership Foundation. In 2011, he and ThinkTank Learning received special recognition at the 7th Annual Greater China Economic Excellence Awards ceremony held in 2012 in Beijing.



**Commissioner Helen Lee**, from Cerritos, brings almost 40 years in leadership positions in large, complex organizations such as the County of Los Angeles, Kaiser Permanente and the City of Los Angeles as a Human Resources Manager and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. She is known for getting people involved

at all levels of the workforce, and bridging business and HR objectives – so that talent and organizations can grow in tandem. Lee was a HR consultant for the Regional Government Services Authority and RGS, and a principal in her own consulting practice. She served as a counselor for the Asian Rehabilitation Services and Mayor Tom Bradley's Office for Persons with Disabilities.





## CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

### HISTORY

Former Assemblymember George Nakano (Torrance) authored AB 116 in 2002 to establish the commission, with members of the 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 a historic recognition of the accomplishments and needs of California's growing Asian Americans and Pacific Islander populations (AAPI).

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 AAPIs 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 AAPIs.

The commission has been operating since January 2004. Although established by statute, we do not receive any public money. Donations and private resources fully fund our operations.

Connect With Us  
[caapicommission.org](http://caapicommission.org) | [ccapiaa@gmail.com](mailto:ccapiaa@gmail.com)

