



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COMMISSION ON
**ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN AFFAIRS**



COMMISSIONERS **California Commission on Asian & Pacific
Islander American Affairs Full Commission
Meeting**

Jason Paguio, *Chair*

Dr. Kirin Macapugay, DSW, *Vice Chair*

Lance Toma, *Secretary*

Rajan Gill, MA

Tahra Goraya, MC/MPA

Johanna Hester

Gene Kim, J.D., MBA

Theodore Kim, J.D.

Dr. Diann Kitamura, Ed.D.

Helen Lee, SPHR IPMA-CP

Jason Tam

Taunuu Ve'e

Dr. David Yee, MD, MPH

Date: May 9, 2025

Time: 1:00-4:00 PM (PST)

Address: 505 Van Ness Ave, Golden Gate Room, San Francisco, CA 94102

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94446272184?pwd=NkrrnPFaZ1Mw7Qc1ckgj0ObsXCSl61A.1>

Meeting ID: 944 4627 2184

Passcode: 296075

Note: The Commission is not responsible for unforeseen technical difficulties that may occur in the audio feed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Khydeeja Alam

Public comments will be taken on agenda items at the time the specific item is raised unless it is a closed-session item. Agenda items may be taken out of order to accommodate speakers and to maintain a quorum. Please check the Commission's website for updates, as the meeting may be rescheduled. For verification of the meeting, access the Commission's website at www.capiaa.ca.gov.

*In addition to public comment regarding each agenda item, the Commission affords an opportunity to members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the Commission's jurisdiction but are not on the noticed agenda. The Commission is not permitted to act on items that are not on the noticed agenda but may refer to items for future consideration.



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Meeting Notice & Agenda

Time	Agenda Items & Topics
1:00-1:10PM	I. Welcome and Call to Order- <i>Chair Paguio</i> II. Roll Call and Establish Quorum- <i>Secretary Toma</i> III. Opening Remarks- <i>Chair Paguio</i>
1:10-1:20PM	IV. Action Item- Approval January Meeting Minutes- <i>Chair Paguio</i> Public Comment
1:20-2:05PM	V. Informational Presentation- Together We Are Stronger Than Hate: How are efforts to strengthen communities and organizations working? - <i>Astrid Hendricks, Strategy & Learning [e]Valuation Consultant</i> Public Comment
2:05-3:05PM	VI. Committee Updates Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action Item- CAPIAA Bylaws Commission Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none">Informational Item- Committee Restructure DiscussionAction Item- Budget + Legislative Committee Commission Vote Public Comment Health Equity Committee Higher Education Equity Committee Economic Equity Committee



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	Public Comment
3:05-3:45PM	VII. Executive Director Updates- <i>Director Alam</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informational Item- Bill Sponsorship Public Comment
3:45-3:50PM	VIII. Commissioners Comment- Items Not on the Agenda
3:50PM	IX. Adjourn



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MEETING MINUTES

California Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs Full Commission Meeting

Date Friday, May 9, 2025

Time 1:00-4:00 PM

Address 505 Van Ness Ave, Golden Gate Room, San Francisco, CA 94102

Zoom Link <https://zoom.us/j/94446272184?pwd=Nk9nPFaZ1Mw7Qc1ckgj0ObSXC5I61A.1>
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Commissioner Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Chair Jason Paguio	X	
Vice Chair Kirin Macapugay	X	
Secretary Lance Toma	X	
Rajan Gill	X - Zoom	
Tahra Goraya	X	
Johanna Hester	X	
Theodore Kim	X - Zoom	
Diann Kitamura	X	
Helen Lee	X	
Jason Tam	X	
Taunu'u Ve'e	X	



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David Yee	X	
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Staff Attendance:

Khydeeja Alam, Executive Director
Yee Xiong, Manager of Communications & External Affairs
Emma Anderson, Executive Assistant
Paige Tegeluk, Outreach and Event Coordinator
Gabriel Young, Graduate Student Assistant

AGENDA

Items

I. Welcome and Call to Order- Chair Paguio

- Vice-Chair Macapugay opened the meeting at 1:11pm and welcome new Commissioners.
- Commissioner Hester and Kitamura shared their thanks and enthusiasm to serving on the Commission.
- Vice Chair Macapugay greeted everyone a Happy AANHPI Heritage Month and uplifted the importance of hosting the meeting in San Francisco as it's one of the most populated AANHPI cities. She expressed gratitude to the opportunity of having the meeting in the City of San Francisco, one of the most populated AAPI cities in California.

II. Roll Call and Establish Quorum- Secretary Toma

III. Opening Remarks- Chair Paguio

- Chair Paguio welcomed new Commissioners Kitamura and Hester, noting their strong reputations and trusted standing in their respective fields.

IV. ACTION ITEM- Approval January 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Motioned to approve the January 2025 Meeting Minutes by Secretary Toma & Motion Seconded by Commissioner Yee



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	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Chair Jason Paguio			X	
Vice Chair Kirin Macapug ay	X			
Secretary Lance Toma	X			
Rajan Gill	X			
Tahra Goraya			X	
Johanna Hester				X
Theodore Kim			X	
Diann Kitamura				X
Helen Lee				X
Jason Tam			X	
Taunu'u Ve'e			X	
David Yee	X			

Public Comment - No Public Comment

V. Informational Presentation- Together We Are Stronger Than Hate: How are efforts to strengthen communities and organizations working? - Astrid Hendricks, Strategy & Learning [e]Valuation Consultant

- Vice Chair Macapugay introduced Astrid Hendricks
- Mabel Teng, Principal of Mabel Teng Advocacy & Policy Consulting and lead evaluator for the Stop the Hate (STH) initiative, opened by thanking the Commission for its leadership and the Legislature and Governor's Office for significant investments in anti-hate work. She introduced her statewide evaluation team, including Astrid Hendricks, Strategy & Learning [e]Valuation Consultant, and Tana Lepule from Pacific Islander Collective San Diego (PIC SD). Teng emphasized their



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mission to document the quantitative progress and qualitative impact of the STH program across California. She provided context on the initiative: [POWERPOINT PRESENTATION](#)

- Commissioners expressed appreciation and raised important questions about sustainability, equity, and evaluation processes.
- Secretary Toma inquired about how transformative grantees are evaluated and whether the evaluation captures impacts on marginalized groups amid national DEI backlash. Hendricks explained that transformative grantees are being assessed with a shared evaluation framework while acknowledging their distinct approaches.
- Commissioner Lee voiced concern over the separate evaluation pathway for transformative grantees, emphasizing the need for equitable standards across all 225 organizations. Hendricks clarified that while funding paths differed, outcome expectations remain aligned.
- Commissioner Yee asked about youth programming visibility, particularly related to CSU San Marcos. Tana confirmed that regional leads are documenting such work, with media to be shared at future meetings.
- Vice Chair Macapugay asked whether the evaluation includes transition planning post-grant. Teng confirmed that sustainability and capacity-building concerns are being documented and that conversations are underway with regional leads, the Department of Social Services, and philanthropic partners.
- Commissioner Goraya proposed the Commission consider convening funders to address the sunset of STH grants and share impact data as part of future advocacy.
- Looking Ahead, Executive Director Alam encouraged commissioners to attend the upcoming May 12 convening in Sacramento, led by regional partners and the evaluation team. This will be followed by the Stop the Hate Initiative's first Action Day at the Capitol on May 13, where grantees will share their work and stories directly with state leaders. The evaluation team noted that more stories and data will be presented at future meetings to reflect the full scope and significance of the Stop the Hate initiative.

Public Comment - No Public Comment



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VI. Committee Updates

Executive Committee

- ACTION ITEM- CAPIAA Bylaws Commission Vote
 - Legal Counsel Chris Philipps presented the final version of the Commission's updated bylaws.
 - Commissioner Lee proposed an amendment allowing chairs to serve more than two terms with a supermajority vote, to balance continuity with accountability. The Commission agreed to amend the bylaws accordingly before moving to a final vote.
 - Motion to Amend Language by Commissioner Goraya & Motion Seconded by Commissioner Tam
 - Motion to approve the CAPIAA Bylaws by Commissioner Goraya & Motion Seconded by Commissioner Tam

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chair Jason Paguio	X			
Vice Chair Kirin Macapugay	X			
Secretary Lance Toma	X			
Rajan Gill	X			
Tahra Goraya	X			
Johanna Hester	X			
Theodore Kim	X			
Diann Kitamura	X			
Helen Lee	X			
Jason Tam	X			
Taunu'u Ve'e	X			
David Yee	X			

Public Comment – No Public Comment

- ACTION ITEM- Budget + Legislative Committee Commission Vote
 - Chair Paguio introduced the formation of a new Budget + Legislative Committee as part of a comprehensive

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framework to guide the Commission's long-term vision and ensure alignment with its mission. He emphasized the importance of having a clear process for evaluating and supporting policies and legislation, highlighting the Commission's distinct role as appointees. In contrast to the Commission's issue-based committees—which aim to shape future legislative priorities—the Budget + Legislative Committee will respond to active legislation and fiscal proposals. He reiterated that this committee creates a vital pathway for the Commission to act strategically on state policy.

- Commissioner Gill voiced strong support, especially in light of reduced legislator engagement at community listening sessions.
- Commissioner Lee agreed on the formation of the committee, signaling broad consensus among members. Appointing a chair for the committee was confirmed as a future action item.
- Public Comment:
 - SPEAKER 1 called for greater attention to air quality issues affecting the South of Market neighborhood and urged the Commission to oppose SB 607 and AB 609, which would remove CEQA protections from development projects.
 - SPEAKER 2 shared their concerns about CalFresh Budget Cuts.
 - SPEAKER 3 asked for support for the Housing Bond Act.
 - SPEAKER 4 urged the Commission to address immigrant and tenant protections in future meetings, especially for enforcement of AB 291, which prohibits landlords from inquiring about a tenant's immigration status.
 - SPEAKER 5 requested that Section 8 housing vouchers be included in future Commission discussions.
 - SPEAKER 6 urged for the Commission to call for a statewide rent cap and support AB 1157, which strengthens tenant rights and increases protections against predatory business practices.
 - SPEAKER 7 expressed concern about the lack of visibility of the Commission's work and called for stronger protections for tenants, particularly those facing eviction or with unlawful detainers.



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- SPEAKER 8 raised concerns about recent budget cuts to the arts. They noted that the California Arts Council's budget was cut by \$5 million in 2024, reducing critical services, and urged the Commission to advocate against these cuts.
- SPEAKER 9 urged the Commission to focus on upcoming legislative measures and advocated against pollution and expressed concern about how current legislative measures may weaken CEQA requirements, asking for clarification and opposition to such efforts.
- SPEAKER 10 emphasized the importance of state-recognized cultural districts in preserving community identity. The speaker also expressed concern over increasing fear related to ICE raids and called on the Commission and the state to support API communities in the face of federal-level threats.
- SPEAKER 11 spoke in opposition to several state bills—SB 607, AB 609, and SB 79—that would remove CEQA requirements for development projects in San Francisco.
- SPEAKER 12 expressed concern over increasing state-level efforts to deregulate land use and reduce affordable housing investments, warning of a potential new wave of displacement in the South of Market area.
- SPEAKER 13 thanked the Commission for establishing the Economic Equity Committee and called for greater attention to wage theft and workers' rights, especially in voicing support for AB 1234, which would help discourage employers from delaying valid claims without merit and reduce the backlog of unresolved cases.
- SPEAKER 14 urged the Budget & Legislative Committee to prioritize language access. They shared that two recent state grant opportunities did not include translated materials in Filipino and lacked additional funding for multilingual printing. They called on the state to recognize this threshold and ensure Filipino translations are provided across state agencies.

END PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Paguio expressed appreciation for the strong community turnout.



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- Commissioner Tam thanked attendees for their in-person participation, emphasizing the significance of holding the meeting in San Francisco.
- Commissioner Yee, highlighted an ongoing UCSF-UCD-Stanford study on lung cancer among Asian women who never smoked, underscoring the relevance of environmental health concerns raised during public comment.
- Commissioner Hester shared her pride in hearing from Filipino American voices.
- Chair Paguio reflected on the evolution of the Commission's public engagement and encouraged continued participation in listening sessions.
- Commissioner Ve'e thanked speakers for their testimony, noting the importance of language access and highlighting AB 291, AB 1157, and AB 1234.
- A public speaker called for continued outreach to underrepresented communities.
- Vice Chair Macapugay commended the community for organizing and emphasized the Commission's role as a partner to the public.
- Motion to approve the formation of the Budget + Legislative Committee by Commissioner Tam & Motion Seconded by Commissioner Lee

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chair Jason Paguio	X			
Vice Chair Kirin Macapugay	X			
Secretary Lance Toma	X			
Rajan Gill	X			
Tahra Goraya	X			
Johanna Hester	X			
Theodore Kim	X			
Diann Kitamura	X			
Helen Lee	X			



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Jason Tam	X			
Taunu'u Ve'e	X			
David Yee	X			

Public Comment – No Public Comment

- INFORMATIONAL ITEM- Committee Restructure Discussion
 - Executive Director Alam tabled this item for next meeting.
 - Public Comment- No Public Comment

Health Equity Committee

- Secretary Toma provided updates on strategic planning with the AANHPI Health Coalition, presentations on the federal policy landscape and philanthropic engagement. Key policy priorities remain mental health, data disaggregation, and language access—highlighted by support for AB 1242, which would strengthen language access infrastructure at CalHHS.
- Commissioner Ve'e reported successful Pacific Islander listening sessions in Long Beach and San Diego, with a final Bay Area session planned for September.

Higher Education Equity Committee

- Vice Chair Macapugay highlighted continued state investments of \$8 million annually to each of the California Community College System and California State University System
- Vice Chair Macapugay also addressed growing concerns around immigration, international students, and FAFSA access, especially for Dreamers.
- The Commission recently partnered with Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE), drawing over 1,500 attendees. Looking ahead, a higher education forum is being planned for and efforts are underway to relaunch the advisory board that successfully drove past advocacy efforts.

Economic Equity Committee

- Chair Paguio highlighted the Commission's adoption of a research study focused on small businesses, emphasizing the over \$200 billion economic contribution of NHPI-owned establishments in California. He noted the significant presence of Asian-owned businesses across the state and underscored persistent barriers to government services—



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especially language access, based on polling from the Asian Business Association foundation. He stressed the equity implications of language dependency, particularly in San Diego County where over 50% of Asian residents rely on language assistance. Chair Paguio also raised concerns about the lack of data collection following recent wildfires in L.A. County, pointing out a 70% financial impact on small businesses. He called for the Commission to strengthen its role as a data hub and remain responsive to emerging crises affecting underserved communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **SPEAKER** voiced support for AB 1186, emphasizing the importance of data disaggregation for the Filipino community.

VII. Executive Director Updates- Director Alam

- Executive Director Alam highlighted this year's AAPI Heritage Month efforts with the "1 in 10" report, a May 19 voter engagement forum on AAPI community needs and emerging voter trends, spotlights of community leaders during AAPI Heritage Month.
- Executive Director Alam described CAPIAA's new higher education pilot program.
- Staffing updates included new hires to support the Commission's fiscal work, policy initiatives, and storytelling efforts.
- **INFORMATIONAL ITEM – AB 1186**
 - Executive Director Alam introduced Assembly Bill 1186, authored by former Commissioner and now Assemblymember Dr. Patel, as a legislative priority for the Commission. The bill focuses on advancing data disaggregation—a longstanding objective of the Commission—and Alam noted that the Commission may be asked to sponsor the bill when appropriate.
 - Commissioners discussed the differences between AB 1186 and AB 91. Vice Chair Macapugay clarified that while AB 91 includes Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) populations, AB 1186 expands to include additional subcategories, thereby broadening the scope of data collection.
 - Commissioner Goraya raised questions about the purpose of data collection and how to ensure it empowers communities and aligns with Commission priorities.



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- Commissioners Ve'e and Kitamura stressed the need for more accurate representation in sectors like education and housing, underscoring the importance of better demographic data.
- Chair Paguio expressed strong support, noting that AB 1186 aligns with the Commission's statutory mission and vision to serve communities through better data infrastructure.
- Executive Director Alam also previewed the formal structuring of committees to support a broader policy agenda. The newly established Budget + Legislative Committee will serve as the designated space for reviewing legislation and budget matters moving forward. Additionally, she proposed expanding the scope of the Education Equity Committee to more comprehensively address education issues beginning at the K-12 level—not just higher education.
- Vice Chair Macapugay added that while AB 1186 is being considered now as a special case, future legislation will be routed through the Budget + Legislative Committee.
- Chair Paguio confirmed that commissioner appointments will begin soon via a letter of interest process. He reaffirmed that with this structure and the Commission's strategic plan in place, the Commission is well-positioned to advance data-driven policy efforts.
- Motion to approve CAPIAA's Sponsoring of AB 1186 by Commissioner Hester & Motion Seconded by Commissioner Tam

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chair Jason Paguio	X			
Vice Chair Kirin Macapug ay	X			
Secretary Lance Toma	X			
Rajan Gill	X			
Tahra Goraya	X			
Johanna Hester	X			



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Theodore Kim	X			
Diann Kitamura	X			
Helen Lee	X			
Jason Tam	X			
Taunu'u Ve'e	X			
David Yee	X			

Public Comment

- Karthick Ramakrishnan of AAPI Data added that AB 1186 also presents a chance to lead on data privacy and cybersecurity protections, especially in preparation for the 2030 Census. He noted that California is uniquely positioned to act and that AAPI Data stands ready to provide technical support.

VIII. Commissioners Comment- Items Not on the Agenda

- No Commissioner Comments

IX. Adjourn

- Chair Paguio Motioned to adjourn at 3:52pm