



COMMISSION ON
ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

A Report to the Governor and Legislature





COMMISSION ON
ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MISSION

*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.*

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

This has been an outstanding year for the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

In 2004, the Commission's first year in operation, we chose to address language access, hate crimes and the Hmong refugee resettlement as priority issues affecting California's Asian Pacific Islander American community.

In this, our third year, the Commission chose to focus on one significant issue—problem gambling—because of its relevance and impact on our community and our state. We began tackling this issue last year, but we chose to continue exploring it in more depth because of the vast economic, social, political, and emotional implications on individuals and families in the Asian Pacific Islander American community and the subsequent potential economic impact upon our state.

We present our continued work on the issue in this report.

The other relevant work of the Commission this year included the California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit held in Sacramento at the end of February along with a public hearing by leaders from around the state presenting the issues of the Asian Pacific Islander American community that they are working on.

While we are pleased with the work completed thus far, we realize we have a long road ahead.

The Commission will continue to direct attention to the important issues addressed in this annual report and the consequences to the Asian Pacific Islander American community and the people of California if they are not dealt with on a large or small scale.

My colleagues and I remain committed to working with you to develop realistic solutions to keep California strong and thriving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Hui".

Norman Hui, D.D.S.

Chair

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs served the people of California, the Governor and the Legislature for a third year. This year, in addition to its regular activities, the Commission chose to delve deeply into one significant issue: problem gambling.

While the Commission began exploring problem gambling in its work last year through the creation of the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force, this year, the Commission began the framework for discussion that included input from stakeholders throughout California.

Much of the discussion centered on the purpose and structure of the Task Force, its membership and interaction with the Commission.

In conjunction with the offices of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Assemblymember Judy Chu, the Commission also coordinated two press conferences to raise awareness of the issue of problem gambling during National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 6 - 12, 2006.

The press conferences were held in San Francisco and Los Angeles and received significant news coverage.

At the end of February, the Commission held the California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit in conjunction with the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equity (AACRE), Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN), the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) and the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Institute.

The two-day conference welcomed more than 200 participants from throughout California and initiated discussions in plenary sessions and roundtable discussions on education, civil rights, language access, justice and fairness in the legal system, interracial harassment among youth and the impact of the state budget on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

The Honorable Warren T. Furutani from Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez' office and a member of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees gave the lunch keynote address.



Warren Furutani



L-R: Pam Chueh; Georgette Imura; Assemblymembers Carol Liu, Wilma Chan and Judy Chu; Maeley Tom; Dale Shimasaki and Bill Wong





*Speaker of the Assembly
Fabian Nuñez addresses APIA
Policy Summit participants*

Coalition Building Strategy Session

The Commission also seized the opportunity to bring together leaders from throughout the state and conducted a joint public hearing with the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus on relevant issues to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. A wide array of issues were presented and included civil rights, health and human services, education, and community and economic development.

At the end of the legislative session, the Commission also presented its legislative priorities to Governor Schwarzenegger. The priorities included:

- AB 680 (Chan)
Translation of school notices and materials into primary languages of substantial English Language Learner populations in K-12 education
- AB 1056 (Chu)
Pilot grant program for intergroup relations and tolerance instruction in existing curriculum
- AB 2302 (Committee on Judiciary)
Language assistance in justice system
- AB 2510 (Lieu)
Statewide survey for 7th, 9th and 11th graders about bullying in existing survey

The Commission continues to monitor issues impacting the Hmong community and refugee resettlement. Specifically, public assistance through the Office of Refugee Resettlement and CalWORKS (welfare to work program) continue to be challenges for which additional partnerships and resources are needed. As the Hmong community navigates such challenges, we also note significant achievements in the Hmong community such as increased civic engagement and having the first Hmong, Blong Xiong, elected to the Fresno City Council in November 2006.



INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (Commission) was established in 2002 by AB 116 (Nakano). Created as a citizens' commission to serve as a statewide voice for the interests and concerns of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, the Commission is charged with advising the Governor, Legislature, state agencies and departments and other state commissions on issues related to the social and economic development, rights and interests of the Asian and Pacific Islander American communities across the state.

Asians and Pacific Islanders continue to be the fastest growing and most diverse ethnic group in California representing more than four million residents or 14 percent of the state's population.

The Commission comprises 13 members appointed by the Governor and Legislature. The Commission is funded entirely by private resources and, therefore, has no fiscal impact on the state.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs include:

- 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 maintaining effective liaison and outreach with Asian and Pacific Islander American communities through information dissemination about Asian and Pacific Islander American resources to the public, and effective outreach with Asian and Pacific Islander American communities concerning public and private programs beneficial to their interest.
- Examine issues of access and cultural and 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.



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY SUMMIT

At the end of February, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs held the California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit in partnership with the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equity (AACRE), Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN), the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA) and the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Institute.

The annual summit brings APIA community leaders from around the state to discuss and advocate for key issues facing the community.

Assemblymember Judy Chu, chair of the API Legislative Caucus, joined other members of the Caucus to welcome summit participants.

The Honorable John Chiang, chairman of the State Board of Equalization, delivered a plenary address on the progress of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in politics and the Honorable Warren T. Furutani, member of the Los Angeles Community College District and special assistant to Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, served as the keynote for the lunch.



John Chiang

Hearing topics included language access, interracial harassment in public schools, voting rights and voter participation, youth violence, access to health care and human services, English learner issues, content standards and curriculum issues, higher education, workforce development, small business issues and housing.



The second day of the summit included training and skills building components addressing leadership development issues, advocacy priorities and legislative visits with legislators at the capitol.



PROBLEM GAMBLING

Problem gambling is defined by the California Council on Problem Gambling as participation in any form of gambling to the extent that it creates any negative consequences to the gambler, their family, place of employment or community including patterns of gambling and related behaviors (usually financial issues) that compromise, disrupt, or damage personal, family, educational and/or vocational interests.



The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs began exploring the issue of problem gambling toward the end of its 2004 year. Last year, the Commission conducted an initial assessment on the issue and its impact on the lives of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and created the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force, an official subcommittee of the Commission.

The Task Force membership includes Commissioners Dr. Norman Hui, Paul Osaki and Diane Ujjiye. Non-commission members include Alicia de Leon Torres, Alcohol Drug Program-Asian Pacific Islander Constituency Committee (ADP APICC); Kent Woo, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition; Dr. Ford Kuramoto, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA); Dr. Timothy Fong, UCLA Gambling Studies Program; Sam Joo, Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) and Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP); and Sunny Pak, Union on Pan Asian Communities (UPAC).

“We are breaking the ‘see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil’ cycle through a wide array of education, outreach and advocacy efforts.”

—Diane Ujjiye

This year, the Task Force began the framework for discussion that included input from stakeholders throughout California. Much of the discussion centered on the purpose and structure of the Task Force, its membership and interaction with the Commission and long term plans about how to continue the work of the Task Force.

During National Problem Gambling Awareness Week — March 6-12, 2006, the Commission coordinated two press conferences throughout the state in conjunction with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez’ office and Assemblymember Judy Chu, to raise awareness of the issue of problem gambling.

Press conferences were held in San Francisco and Los Angeles and a press release was issued in San Diego. The Commission received significant news coverage in each of the major media markets.

The Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force of the Commission decided early on that its primary function is to advocate for resources that support culturally competent prevention, intervention and treatment services through advocacy and technical assistance to policy makers and departments that address problem gambling.





Photo courtesy of World Journal and Portia Li.

Kent Woo, Executive Director of NICOS Chinese Health Coalition speaks to the media in a Problem Gambling Awareness Week press conference.

To that end, the Task Force monitored state level policy and funding while providing technical assistance to the Alcohol Drug Program-Office of Problem Gambling (OPG). Two of the task force members, Commissioner Paul Osaki and Kent Woo serve on the newly established OPG Advisory Committee.

The Task Force elevated the issue of problem gambling through presentations at the 20th Annual Conference on Prevention, Research and Treatment of Problem Gambling in St. Paul, Minnesota and the APIA Policy Summit in Sacramento.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer charged the California State Library Research Bureau with producing the report, “Gambling in the Golden State 1998 Forward,” in May, 2006. The Commission and Task Force’s work and anecdotal data was cited throughout that report.



Brochures courtesy of the Alcohol Drug Program-Office of Problem Gambling and National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse.

The media also began paying more attention to this issue and in addition to the press conference convened by the Task Force, separate interviews were conducted by the *Los Angeles Times*, National Public Radio’s “Air Talk with Larry Mantel,” and KCET’s “Life and Times,” hosted by Sam Louie.

And finally, the Task Force provided assistance to the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA) Coalition in the submission and eventual award of two contracts administered by the OPG: an ethnic language materials contract and a technical assistance and training contract to help build the prevention infrastructure in California.



JOINT COMMISSION ON APIA AFFAIRS/ API LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS HEARING

In the Spring, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs held joint hearings with the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus on relevant issues to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community.

Experts from around the state provided testimony on the following issues:

- Language access - Luna Yasui, Center for Asian American Advocacy
- Interracial harassment in the public schools - Jack Ye and Ming Zhi Li, students
- API voting rights and voter participation - Eugene Lee, Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California
- API youth violence - Mary Lai, National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Health access - Ho Tran, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Human services - Jackie Maruhashi, Asian Law Alliance
- English language learner - Christina Wong, Center for Asian American Advocacy
- Content standards and curriculum issues - Karen Leong Clancy, Board of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District
- Higher education - Warren Furutani, Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees and Office of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez
- Workforce development - Strela Cervas, Filipino Worker's Center
- Housing - Lynette Lee, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
- Small business - Pat Fong Kushida, Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce

The Commission has a report on the hearing, the testimony and recommendations made by the experts who testified.

*Joint API Legislative Caucus
and Commission Hearing*



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

At the end of the legislative session, the Commission also presented its legislative priorities to Governor Schwarzenegger. The priorities included:



AB 680 (ASSEMBLYMEMBER WILMA CHAN)

Translation of school notices and materials into primary languages of substantial English Language Learner populations in K-12 education



AB 1056 (ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUDY CHU)

Pilot grant program for intergroup relations and tolerance instruction in existing curriculum

AB 2302 (COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY)

Language assistance in justice system



AB 2510 (ASSEMBLYMEMBER TED LIEU)

Statewide survey for 7th, 9th and 11th graders about bullying in existing survey

COMMISSIONERS' BIOGRAPHIES



NORMAN H. HUI - CHAIR

Norman H. Hui, D.D.S., Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs Commission was born in Mainland China. His family moved from Canton to Hong Kong after the Chinese Communist Party took over the country in 1949. In 1959, Dr. Hui immigrated to the United States with his parents, where he attended the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. degree in Biological Sciences in 1966. He subsequently received his DDS degree from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in 1973. His political and community activism began by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of his children's school.

He was also a member of the Board of Directors on the San Francisco Chinatown Lions Club and was elected president in 1985. Norman served as a member of the Board of Directors at North East Medical Services in San Francisco since 1982 and was chairperson from 1992 to 2002. He is one of the founding members of the Organization of Chinese Americans, East Bay Chapter and was president from 1999 to 2002. Norman is a member of the Chinese American Political Association (CAPA) in Contra Costa County and was elected president in 1995. He continues to be heavily involved with community and political forums and fundraising activities for various political candidates.



DIANE MICHIKO UJIYE - VICE CHAIR

Diane Michiko Ujiye is the Director of the Asian Pacific Islander California Action Network (APIsCAN), a statewide network of Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) health, human service, education and immigrant rights organizations. APIs CAN is the lead APIA organizer for the Preschool Opportunity for All movement in California. Ms. Ujiye serves on six local or statewide advisory bodies including Vice President of Policy for the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council; the California Highway Patrol Citizen's Oversight Committee; and the English Language Learner Preschool Coalition. Ms. Ujiye has more than

twenty years of experience in substance abuse prevention and treatment through her work with the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) Inc. where she managed multi-ethnic adolescent treatment, gang intervention, HIV/AIDS prevention and training, tobacco control and community organizing contracts in four facilities throughout Los Angeles County.



ALEXIS WONG - TREASURER

Since founding AGI Capital, a real estate investment and development company, in 1998, Alexis Wong has led AGI to complete over \$500 million of development and investment opportunities. With 17 years of experience in real estate development, investment and management, Ms. Wong has overseen virtually every type of real estate project—including retail, office, large multi-family investment, land development, ground up construction, and condominium conversions. She has extensive experience working with companies based in Asia and is active in leadership of several philanthropic organizations, including local and international political, cultural, and environmental groups. In recognition for her real estate vision and business acumen, Ms. Wong was appointed to the California Real Estate Advisory Commission in 2004, and later to the California World Trade Commission, COIN Advisory Board, and the Golden Gate University Ageno Business School Advisory Board. Ms. Wong received a BA in marketing and an MBA in international management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.



NITASHA SAWHNEY - SECRETARY

Nitasha Sawhney is an attorney with the downtown Los Angeles law firm of Garcia Calderon Ruiz, LLC. Ms. Sawhney specializes in education, labor, and employment law matters. She also serves as a legal volunteer with the Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund (SALDEF) and the California Sikh Council where she assists with hate crime issues, employment discrimination, accommodation/access cases and increasing civic engagement. Ms. Sawhney also serves as a board member of the South Asian Bar Association's Public Interest Foundation and is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's "Diversity in the Profession" Committee, the South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT) Policy Task Force and served as Chair of California's first Spinning Wheel Film Festival, a film festival focused on sharing stories through films created by Sikhs or about Sikhs. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley where she studied Mass Communication and Ethnic Studies. She received her law degree from the UC Davis' King Hall Law School. Ms. Sawhney was recently awarded the Spirit in Action Award from the Interfaith Councils of the City of Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster for her work in raising funds to aid victims of genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and her dedication to public service.





AKEMI DENISE ARAKAKI

Akemi Denise Arakaki, of Monterey Park, is the immediate past President of the Japanese American Bar Association of Greater Los Angeles, as well as a member and Chair of the Programs Committee. She serves as a Deputy Public Defender with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, where she has worked since 1999. Ms. Arakaki also serves as the treasurer of the Asian Pacific Public Defenders Association, and a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association. While attending law school, she received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award and the Japanese American Bar Association Annual Scholarship.

Ms. Arakaki earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wellesley College, and a juris doctorate degree from Loyola Law School.



LUISA BLUE

Luisa Blue is the South-Southwest Coordinator for Staff and Membership Development of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). She was the first Filipina to be elected national President of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) in 2001 and was re-elected in 2003 for another two-year term and serves as a Special Representative to the Change to Win Labor Federation. She was the first President of SEIU Local 121 RN in Southern California and the Organizing Director for SEIU Local 790, a large union in Northern California, and was awarded the SEIU Western Region Organizing Director of the year award in

1998. At SEIU Local 790 she was responsible for the successful organizing campaign of airport screeners, predominantly Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants, at the San Francisco International Airport. In 1982, she was elected President of SEIU Local 400 and later was elected the San Francisco President of SEIU Local 790. In 1990, she joined the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute staff and later joined the SEIU International organizing department first as a lead organizer for the union's healthcare division and later as the SEIU Pacific Northwest Organizing Coordinator. Ms. Blue has been active in the Filipino American community, working on immigrant and discrimination issues. She is the former President of the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates Board of Directors and continues to be a member of the Board.



FRITZ FRIEDMAN

Fritz Friedman is Senior Vice President of Worldwide Publicity for Sony Pictures Home Entertainment (SPHE), the home entertainment distribution arm for Sony Pictures Entertainment. A graduate of Vassar College with a degree in Asian Studies and a graduate degree in Communications from the Annenberg School of Communications of the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Friedman began his entertainment career as an usher at Carnegie Hall. He later became an associate manager at Columbia Artists Management Inc (CAMI) for such musical luminaries as Lord Yehudi Menuhin and the Danish Royal Ballet. Active in philanthropic and civil rights activities, Mr. Friedman currently serves as Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the Filipino American Library and is Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE). He also sits on the Boards of the San Diego Asian American Film Festival and Loyola Productions and is Chair Emeritus of the Vassar College Asian Pacific American Alumni Association. Mr. Friedman is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Cinemanila in the Philippines and a National Citation from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for his Civil Rights work on behalf of the Filipino Veterans of World War II and as a role model among many others.



FRANCISCO H. HSIEH

Francisco H. Hsieh was a member of the California World Trade Commission (WTO) where he represented the State of California in a WTO multi-city forum in China discussing strategies for business development and diplomatic relations. He also served on the California Transportation Advisory Board, making recommendations on statewide transit improvement and development policies. In addition to the advisory role he plays on a state level, he actively co-promotes San Francisco internationally as a member of the San Francisco-Shanghai Sister City Committee and as former co-chair of the San Francisco-Taipei Sister City Committee. He helps build upon existing relationships to develop joint economic and diplomatic partnerships and further understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures. Currently, he works as a political and business consultant with clients at the local, state and federal levels. He has advised candidates such as Gov. Gray Davis, Congressman Mike Honda, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. and San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma in a variety of capacities including media relations, community outreach and fundraising. Mr. Hsieh, who is based in San Francisco, is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, as well as several other Chinese dialects.



COMMISSIONERS' BIOGRAPHIES



DAVID KIM

David J. Kim is currently the General Manager of Self Serve products and Vice President of Business & Corporate Development at Efficient Frontier, a leading venture-backed search engine marketing/technology company, with over \$250 million under management. After receiving an engineering undergraduate from UC Berkeley, he began his career at BancAmerica Robertson Stephens as an M&A investment banking professional. After earning an engineering graduate degree from Stanford University, he worked for Andersen Consulting as a Senior Strategy Consultant. He then went on to start and function as CEO of Enverta (eCandy), a venture-backed software company, which he sold in 2002. He has also filled key executive positions at a number of technology companies including Yahoo! On the community front, Mr. Kim has been a board member of the Korean American Coalition since 1997, serving terms as National President and National Board Representative. Mr. Kim is also a fellow of the Overseas Korean Foundation.



PAUL OSAKI

Paul Osaki is the Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), the largest self-supporting Japanese American non-profit facility in Northern California which is based in San Francisco. He has worked with several other organizations including the Asian American Residential Recovery Services, the Japanese Community Youth Council, the Korean Community Service Center and the Northern California Japanese Christian Churches Federation. He has served on several committees and boards including the Japan Western Business Association, the California-Japan Task Force, the Osaka-San Francisco Sister City Committee, the University of California San Francisco Advisory Group, the Northern California Economic Task Force, the World Affairs Council Board of Directors, and the Japantown Economic Development Corporation. In 1998, Mr. Osaki helped create and organize the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council, an organization representing some of the largest Japanese American organizations in the state. Mr. Osaki has also been a leading voice in the preservation of California's Japantowns and coordinated the statewide efforts to pass SB 307. Mr. Osaki received his BA from San Francisco State University.



PHILIP TING

Philip Ting is the Assessor-Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco. He began his career as a real estate financial advisor and now has over five years of practical and hands-on experience in fiscal management and property assessments. As a Senior Consultant at Arthur Andersen, Mr. Ting valued real estate properties such as apartment buildings, homes, office space and hotels. As a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Mr. Ting has been trained and educated in effective policy-making, with a focus on housing and fiscal policy. As the former Chair of the Citizens' Committee on Community Development, he advised the Mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors on over \$25 million of Community Development Block Grant funding for housing and social service agencies across the city. He has served as the Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus, founded in 1972 to advance and promote the legal and civil rights of the Asian Pacific Islander American community. Mr. Ting has a history of fighting for educational access, greater financial aid and more classes for undergraduates as an Associate Director of Community Relations at San Francisco State University. Mr. Ting lives in San Francisco's Sunset District with his wife, Susan Sun.



CHARLES WOO

Charles Woo is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Megatoys, a toy manufacturing, import/export, and wholesale company in downtown Los Angeles. Megatoys has an office in Hong Kong and manufacturing plants in Shenzhen, China as well as in the City of Commerce, California. In addition, Mr. Woo is known as the founder of the Toy Wholesale District in Los Angeles credited with turning the once deserted warehouse district in downtown into a thriving international trade center. Mr. Woo was the 2001 Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, as the first Asian American chair in its 114 years of existence and its first small and medium sized business chair in recent memory. He also served two terms as President of the Toy Association of Southern California. He currently chairs the Workforce Investment Board of Los Angeles, overseeing the nation's second largest job training program. He also served on the Commissions for Economic Development for the State. A volunteer on many boards of charitable and non-profit groups throughout his business career, Mr. Woo also serves on the boards of the Los Angeles Library Foundation, the Asian Rehabilitation Services, LA's BEST, Metropolitan Los Angeles YMCA, American Red Cross LA Chapter and the UCLA Foundation. He is currently the Chair of the Center of Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), a community organization that provides voter education and leadership development for the Asian American community in California. Mr. Woo, his wife Ying, and their two sons, Geoffrey and Justin, live in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs would not have had a successful third year without significant support from some very special individuals and organizations. We shall always thank former Assemblymember George Nakano for authoring Assembly Bill 116 and recognize the work he put into crafting the language, garnering the support, and skillfully advocating for its passage.

The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, co-chaired by Assemblymembers Judy Chu and Leland Yee remain steadfast with their support. We extend sincere gratitude to the caucus members: Assemblymembers Wilma Chan, Shirley Horton, Ted Lieu, Carol Liu, Alan Nakanishi, Alberto Torrico, Van Tran and Board of Equalization Members John Chiang and Betty Yee.

As always, we sought wisdom and guidance from Warren Furutani, Georgette Imura, Maeley Tom, and Bill Wong, our long-time friends and partners. Pam Chueh must be recognized for her outstanding work as a liaison between the Commission and the Legislature and the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

In addition to the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force, the Commission cultivated a valuable relationship with the Alcohol Drug Program-Office of Problem Gambling (ADP-OPG). We look forward to continuing this partnership as we charter new ground in addressing problem and pathological gambling in California.

The Commission also thanks Murakawa Communications for their creativity and expertise in producing this annual report.

COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS





COMMISSION ON
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