



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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First Annual Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Film Festival Screens *Vincent Who?* and *Manzanar Fishing Club*

Sacramento – The Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus presented its first Annual API Legislative Caucus Film Festival, sponsored by the Asian American Education Institute. The API Caucus screened two documentaries about critical historical events that have shaped the Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) community.

“According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Asian American population grew by 45.6 percent from 2000 to 2010, making Asian Americans the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States.” stated Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D – South LA County), “This film festival allows us to share some of our stories and challenges with the capital community.”

The festival opened with the award winning documentary, *Vincent Who?*, which covers the 1982 Vincent Chin case. At the height of anti-Japanese sentiments arising from massive layoffs in the auto industry, Vincent Chin, a young Chinese American, was brutally beaten to death by two unemployed auto workers who thought he was Japanese. In the trial that followed, the attackers were fined \$3,000 and given 3 years probation without any jail time. This case then sparked a civil rights movement for the APIA community. The film is produced by Curtis Chin and directed by Tony Lam.

“On Saturday, June 23, 2012, we will be reaching the 30th Anniversary of the death of Vincent Chin, and many of the issues faced at that time period are still relevant today” stated Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D-Davis), “Presenting this documentary to the community will help inform the next generation about the struggles of our past and present models on how to address these problems.”

The festival also screened the *Manzanar Fishing Club*, a documentary directed by Cory Shiosaki. Allan Sutton and Richard Imamura, executive producer and producer/writer, respectively, were in attendance of the viewings. Manzanar was one of the ten concentration camps where over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during WWII. This film documents a fascinating story of internees who slipped away under the cover of night to fish in Sierra Nevada's high-altitude lakes and streams.

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.

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