



COMMISSION ON
ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

2007
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.*

**For more information on the Commission,
please call (916) 319-3686.**

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



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

It has been an amazing experience serving as the chair of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs this year. In our fourth year of existence with a track record and established infrastructure, we were able to find our footing very quickly this year.

We chose not to focus our work this year on one priority, but rather to continue our work in many of the issues we addressed since our founding in 2004. You will read more detail about our work in the areas of problem gambling, Hmong refugee resettlement and our legislative priorities in the full report.

We also coordinated another successful policy summit in Sacramento in partnership with the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality, Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network and the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Institute. More than 200 Asian Pacific Islander American leaders and others from around the state came together to address the theme, “Igniting Our Collective Power,” and meet with their legislators about our issues.

It has been an honor for me to chair the Commission this year. We look forward continuing the momentum of excellence for next year.

My colleagues and I renew our commitment to ensuring that state government addresses the needs, issues and concerns of Asians and Pacific Islanders and all Californians. We look forward to another exciting year of creating positive change to improve the quality of life for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "akemi arakaki".

Akemi Arakaki
Chair
Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its fourth year, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs served the people of California, the Governor and the Legislature by addressing a variety of core issues in the Commission's work plan: problem gambling, Hmong refugee resettlement, continued advocacy and presence in the state capitol and access to healthcare, education and other essential services.

The Commission began the year strategically by separating from the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force. While the Commission created the Task Force to study the issue, the decision to separate was made to allow the Task Force to move to the next phase of its work—to focus on needed legislation to address the complex issue of problem gambling.

In early spring, the Commission once again joined the partnership led by the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to coordinate the California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit in Sacramento. More than 200 Asian Pacific Islander American leaders from throughout the state met in Sacramento for the two-day summit to participate in roundtable discussions and workshops addressing issues from older adult and youth issues to language and voting rights access to education/higher education to healthcare.

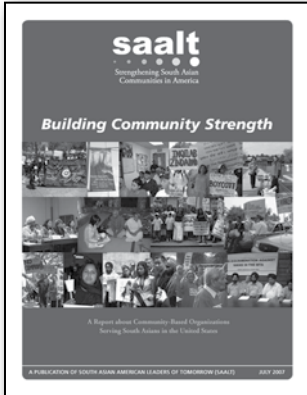
The Commission organized a second successful fundraising reception. Graciously hosted by Sony Pictures Entertainment in Culver City in May, the event brought together more than 200 community and business leaders, elected officials and Hollywood celebrities.

During the program, the Commission paid tribute to those who contributed greatly to the creation and work of the Commission: former Assemblyman George Nakano, Warren Furutani, consultant to Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, Assemblymember Alberto Torrico as chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Board of Equalization Member Judy Chu and the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and the API Legislative Caucus Institute. These individuals and organizations were recognized for their vision and effort in establishing the Commission and providing ongoing support for the Commission.

The Commission also recognized Dr. Norman Hui, the outgoing chair, for his leadership and dedication to the Commission.



Members of the API Legislative Caucus participate in lunch session during API Policy Summit



Hmong refugee resettlement remains a priority issue for the Commission. During its August meeting, commissioners were hosted by City Councilman Blong Xiong in Fresno, the center of the Hmong refugee community in California. The Commission heard testimony and was given recommendations from community leaders and advocates on how to better assist refugees and improve their access to services and quality of life in four areas: education, employment, health and housing.

At its fall meeting, the Commission received a briefing on the South Asian community and its needs. The briefing was based on a report released by the national nonprofit, South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT) and, after a thorough needs assessment conducted with South Asian organizations nationwide, provides a sketch of the community's critical needs as well as recommendations and best practices.

The legislative priorities docket adopted by the Commission this year contained 14 bills:

AG 158 (Ma) – Hepatitis B Outreach and Prevention
Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 269 (Eng) – Dentist Data Collection
Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger

AB 295 (Lieu) – Data to Reflect API Diversity
Vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger

AB 330 (Hayashi) – Health Disparities
Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 394 (Levine) – Safe Schools: Discrimination and Harassment
Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger

AB 590 (Solorio) – Limited English Proficient Parental Involvement
Two year bill

AB 614 (Eng) – Protect Voting Rights for All
Vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger

AB 615 (Torrico) – Emergency Preparedness Planning for Limited English Proficient Communities
Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 675 (Eng) – Tolerance Education Pilot Program
Assembly Education Committee

AB 1052 (Torrico) – Preschool Workforce Development
Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1278 (Ma) – Human Trafficking
Assembly Public Safety Committee

AB 1336 (Bass) – Problem and Pathological Gambling Programs
Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1339 (Torrico) – Problem Gambling Treatment
Vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger

AB 1726 – (Assembly Judiciary Committee) – Court Interpreters
Two year bill



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.

Former Assemblymember George Nakano, Commissioner Diane Ujiye and son and Assemblymember Alberto Torrico at 2nd Annual APIA Commission Fundraiser event



Commissioners and Fresno community leaders tour local Hmong farm as part of Fresno meeting

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

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 communities concerning public and private programs beneficial to their interest.
- 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.



2007 CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY SUMMIT

On April 11-12, 2007, the Commission joined the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus with Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equity (AACRE), Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN) and the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Institute for the California Asian Pacific Islander Policy Summit.

More than 200 Asian Pacific Islander American community leaders from throughout the state converged on the state capitol to discuss and advocate for key issues facing the community. Participants also attended training sessions and conducted legislative visits with policymakers.



This year, the policy summit featured 12 policy and skills-building workshops that reflected the diversity of the community as well as the wide array of issues that APIAs continue to face. Topics included healthcare reform, advocacy for non-profits, voting rights and voter protection, working with the media, arts for social change and several workshops that focused on the empowerment of South Asian, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Commissioners Paul Osaki, Nitasha Sawhney, Akemi Arakaki, and Norman Hui pose with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta at API Summit dinner

Summit participants also participated in roundtable discussions addressing language access, issues impacting youth, health care, mental health, human services, education/higher education, problem gambling/substance abuse, housing/community development, immigration and older adults.

API Legislative Caucus Chair Assemblymember Alberto Torrico was joined by his colleagues Assemblymembers Ted Lieu, Mike Eng, Mary Hayashi and Fiona Ma as well as State Controller John Chiang, Board of Equalization Chair Betty Yee and Vice Chair Judy Chu, Los Angeles Community College Trustee Warren Furutani and Fresno City Councilmember Blong Xiong.



Assemblymember Alberto Torrico, Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, welcomes participants to 2007 API Policy Summit



Assemblymember Mike Eng addresses Summit participants during AACRE legislative briefing



COMMISSION PROJECT UPDATES

CENTRAL VALLEY HMONG REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

In 2004, the Commission adopted Hmong refugee resettlement in California as one of its initial issues. This year, the Commission conducted follow up on the resettlement by holding one of its quarterly meetings in Fresno on August 24, 2007. The meeting, hosted by Fresno City Councilmember Blong Xiong, included a morning tour of Fresno's Chinatown, farming areas and Asian Village shopping center. Following the morning tour, the Hmong Resettlement Task Force provided panel presentations on key issues facing the Hmong refugees, including education, employment, health and housing. Below is a brief summary of the panel presentations.

Education

Presenters: Doua Vu, Resource Specialist for the Fresno Unified School District and Jue Vang, Parent-Community Liaison for the Fresno Unified School District

The Fresno Unified School District is California's fourth largest school district with more than 75,000 students enrolled. The diversity of the district is reflected by the 76 different languages spoken by its students. Approximately 22,000 students are English learners, with Hmong students accounting for about one-third. The Academy for New Americans opened in 2004 as a K-12 school with the mission to ensure immigrant and refugee students have full access to educational excellence and successfully transition to their new country. The academy originally started with about 40 students and rapidly grew to more than 700 students (approximately 500 of which were Hmong) at its peak in Fall 2005.

Currently, the academy has approximately 170 students in grades K-8 (half of whom are Hmong and the other half are Latino) because students have returned to regular high schools and students in other grades have transitioned to their home schools.

The academy also provides information about high school requirements and other pertinent information before students leave the academy. In addition, the academy continues to provide support to students who have transitioned back to regular high schools. Academy counselors conduct weekly school visitations to different high schools to ensure quality services are delivered appropriately and the needs of students are met. Also, home schools were informed to hire additional tutors and bilingual instructional assistants for further support.

Based on information obtained from Hmong school counselors at different high schools, students who have transitioned back to regular high schools are adjusting well to mainstream school in spite of language barriers. Some schools provide reading interventions and tutorial services, while others provide minimal support.

Recommendations from the Presenters:

1. Continued desegregation of data (e.g. when evaluating data from API groups, break down the different ethnic API groups into separate categories).
2. Continue to provide support to students who have transitioned from the academy to regular high schools.
3. Promote instruction of heritage languages in after-school programs to help ensure refugee students retain their heritage language, in addition to promoting the contributions of Southeast Asians (e.g. AB 78 on Southeast Asian education).



Employment

Presenter: Blong Lee, Business Plan Specialist for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission Refugee Programs

Employment for Hmong refugees remains a challenge due to language and cultural barriers. There have been attempts made to place Hmong refugees in sustainable jobs. Fresno County reached out to 1,700 Hmong refugees and placed 1,000 in healthcare related fields. However, it is apparent that there is a great need to provide more training and technical assistance to help develop micro-enterprise opportunities for the new Hmong refugees. In addition, language barriers also prevent many Hmong refugees from passing assessment tests needed for employment.

Recommendations from the Presenter:

1. Fresno County needs to provide more supportive services such as job training, vocational training, vocational ESL, childcare, transportation and educational services.
2. There is a need to establish Individual Development Accounts (IDA) programs to help new Hmong immigrants acquire assets.
3. New programs need to be created to help new Hmong refugees establish credit so they can access credit and other traditional forms of financing.

Health

Presenter: Yer Lor, Fresno County Department of Health Services

Some new Hmong refugees have significant health care needs as many of them arrived with a myriad of health issues. Of the 2,500 Hmong refugees who arrived in Fresno starting in July 2004, there were 24 reported cases of tuberculosis, four of whom are multi-drug resistant. In addition, 40 to 50 percent of refugees have dental problems, with 65 percent of those immigrants being under 18. Other health issues include intestinal parasites that afflict about 50 percent of Hmong immigrants; hearing loss that is correlated to war that afflicts about 50 percent of elders; and diabetes and hypertension, that afflict about 30 to 40 percent of Hmong refugees.

Recommendations from the Presenter:

1. Increase funding for families in need of health care.
2. Provide literature on health risks and preventative care in language(s) needed.

Housing

Presenter: Fue Houa Thao, City of Fresno Housing Department

There is a serious lack of housing assistance available to new refugee families. This is especially true for large families as limited housing stock drives up rental costs. With the shortage of affordable housing, these families experience major challenges in finding a home. Families that apply for the Section 8 program from the local housing authority often have to wait for the opening period to receive assistance which only occurs when funding becomes available. However, the opening usually occurs after a waiting period of two or more years, leaving many families in limbo.



Commissioners Norman Hui, Akemi Arakaki, and Nitasha Sawhney at Hmong farm during Fresno meeting

The cost of a rental unit may range from \$400 to \$750 per month. The current cash aid that is available to some families is not adequate to cover rent and other household expenses such as food. Factors like language barriers and a lack of skills prevent many individuals from obtaining gainful employment that is needed to help ease their housing and financial situation.

When refugee families first arrived in Fresno, temporary housing was provided by their extended or anchor families until the refugee families were able to secure housing of their own. However, most of the extended or anchor families were already living in unsafe and overcrowded housing units. As a result of taking in the refugee families, some anchor families violated their lease agreements and were evicted. To date, approximately 90 percent of the new arrivals are living in their own unsubsidized housing units and only 10 percent are still staying with anchor relatives in severely overcrowded situations.

Understanding these challenges, the city of Fresno has offered these families a training course called, “Home Living Skills,” to help them become good tenants as well as inform them of their rights and responsibilities. Additional training also teaches families budgeting skills like paying rent on time and allocating resources for other necessities.

Recommendations from the Presenter:

1. Housing assistance funding and availability of Section 8 needs to be increased.
2. Create an emergency housing assistance program to prevent homelessness of refugees.

PROBLEM GAMBLING UPDATE

The Commission began exploring the issue of problem gambling within the Asian Pacific Islander American community at the end of its first year and created the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force and the Commission were successful in elevating the issue of problem and pathological gambling among community members, elected officials, staff within local and state departments and the media.

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.

In February, the Task Force formally separated from the Commission to carry out the next phase of its life—legislative work.

During this legislative session, the Task Force co-sponsored two bills to develop a severely needed treatment infrastructure for any problem or pathological gambler seeking help and the California Tribal Business Alliance (CTBA) partnered with the Task Force as a co-sponsor of both bills.

Assembly Bill 1339 (Torrico) outlined treatment services and expanded the role of the statewide advisory body. It was vetoed by the governor.



Assembly Bill 1336 (Bass) establishes a training and certification program to equip health and human service providers with the necessary skills to treat gamblers. This is now a two-year bill.

The Task Force will continue to partner with the Commission to educate new audiences and will brief the Commission on new developments and its progress.

Task Force members include Commissioners Paul Osaki and Diane Ujiiye as well as 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 Sunnyo Pak, Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC).

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS ASSESSMENT

The Commission received a briefing on a report with a status and recommendations for the South Asian community's needs at its November meeting. The briefing was based on information gathered by South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT), a national non-profit organization dedicated to fostering civic and political engagement of South Asians through a social justice framework, and its report released in August 2007, "Building Community Strength."

The report synthesizes the results of a needs assessment and interviews with 31 community-based organizations serving South Asians around the country while highlighting best practices and recommendations for stakeholders to better assist South Asians and organizations addressing their needs.

More than 2.5 million South Asians live in the United States with large populations in the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas—the second and fourth largest South Asian populations in the country respectively. Despite the community's presence in this country, various misperceptions continue about the South Asian community's diversity, needs and challenges.

Generally, South Asian organizations have evolved since 1990 in response to critical needs and operate on budgets of less than \$50,000. These groups observe the need to link service provision with organizing and advocacy.

Narika and the South Asian Network, both California-based organizations, presented additional valuable information about the needs and opportunities faced by organizations serving, advocating for and organizing South Asians at the November meeting.



2007 APIA COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AB 158 (Ma) - Hepatitis B Outreach and Prevention

This bill creates a program in California to provide Hepatitis B outreach and education to populations at a high risk of contracting the virus. Hepatitis B disproportionately impacts Asian Americans, yet there is no state prevention initiative to address the crisis. Asian Americans make up more than one-half of the 1.4 million hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers in the United States.

Outcome: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 269 (Eng) – Dentist Data Collection

This bill aids efforts to collect data in the dental industry to address the growing disparities of access to care for underserved communities. This bill authorizes dentists and dental auxiliaries to report cultural background and foreign language proficiency to the California Dental Board in their licensure renewal application and requires that this information be compiled and reported on the Board's Web site. AB 269 allows the California Dental Board and the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries to collect data on their licensees' ethnic background and language proficiency based on the zip code of primary practice. In addition, this bill requires licensed dentists and dental auxiliaries to report on their license application and renewal, information regarding any board certification, practice status or hours of operation.

Outcome: Signed by Governor

AB 295 (Lieu) – Data to Reflect API Diversity

This bill will ensure state data reflects the diversity of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community by having state agencies collect data for additional API ethnic groups including Hmong, Tongan, Thai, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Indonesian, Taiwanese and Fijian. The focus is on the most critical departments affecting health and human services, education, employment and civil rights.

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 330 (Hayashi) – Health Disparities

Racial and ethnic disparities in health continue to persist for African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders. AB 330 will require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the California Health and Human Services Agency, based on their Discharge Data Set, to develop a health disparities report to assess the levels of measurable health disparities in the state among minorities. The health disparity report shall focus on the following areas of concern: cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, cervical cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, asthma, mental health and trauma.

Outcome: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 394 (Levine) – Safe Schools: Discrimination and Harassment

This bill will ensure students are attending safe schools by outlining a monitoring process to ensure schools are addressing bias-related discrimination and harassment incidents. This bill is co-sponsored by AACRE and Equality California.

Outcome: Signed by Governor

AB 590 (Solorio) – Limited English Proficient Parental Involvement

This bill would expand opportunities for limited English proficient (LEP) parents to become involved in their children’s education. Matching grants would be provided to establish a pilot project with school districts so they can provide oral interpretation services needed to communicate with LEP parents. This bill is sponsored by AACRE.

Outcome: Two year bill

AB 614 (Eng) – Protect Voting Rights for All

This bill will assist counties to improve planning to mitigate barriers and facilitate the ability of limited English proficient and first time voters to participate in California’s democracy. Counties will submit a report on their compliance with various voting rights laws to the Secretary of State’s office. The Secretary of State will post the report and best practices compiled by an advisory group on its Web site. This will assist election officials to develop adequate plans for providing language assistance and incorporate best practices in responding to the needs of limited English proficient voters.

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 615 (Torrico) – Emergency Preparedness Planning for Limited English Proficient Communities

In California, there are more than six million limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. Unfortunately, there is currently little infrastructure for addressing the needs of the sizeable LEP population during an emergency. This legislation would take a proactive stance in emergency preparedness planning and bring greater focus to the needs of the LEP and other vulnerable communities. AB 615 would ensure LEP representation on all Standardized Emergency Management System Committees to create an LEP sensitive state plan to keep millions safe in the face of catastrophe.

Outcome: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 675 (Eng) – Tolerance Education Pilot Program

This bill establishes a pilot project grant program to help integrate inter group relations and tolerance instruction into the existing history and social science curriculum. Specifically, AB 675 authorizes the California Department of Education to award 10 grants to applicable schools to ensure that they have the necessary tools to respond to the increase in bias-motivated incidents that occur on our K-12 campuses.

Outcome: In Assembly Education Committee

AB 1052 (Torrico) – Pre School Workforce Development

Policymakers face serious challenges in setting higher preschool teacher education standards while maintaining diversity in the preschool teacher pool to meet the needs of the state’s diverse child population. The purpose of this bill is to leverage the skills of the current workforce, create an infrastructure to train the next generation of teachers, include significant outreach and recruitment strategies for the Latino and API community and provide financial assistance.

Outcome: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee



AB 1278 (Ma) – Human Trafficking

This bill would establish as void against public policy, contract provisions that would deduct from a person's wages the cost of transporting persons into the United States. The bill will also change the elements required to prove human trafficking when the victim is a minor and would increase the maximum prison term for the offense from five to six years. In addition, the bill will further establish a general procedure related to seizure and forfeiture of assets in connection with human trafficking offenses.

Outcome: In Assembly Public Safety Committee

AB 1336 (Bass) – Problem and Pathological Gambling Programs

This bill requires the Office of Problem Gambling of the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to establish a problem gambling prevention program that includes the training of health care professionals and educators; and training for law enforcement agencies and non profit organizations in the identification of problem gambling behavior and knowledge of referral services and treatment programs.

Outcome: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 1339 (Torrico) – Problem Gambling Treatment

This bill establishes a Problem and Pathological Gambling Advisory Board comprised of representatives from state departments, relevant boards and commissions, providers and practitioners, academia and the gambling industry. Additionally, it expands current prevention programs; establishes intervention and treatment services; and research and evaluation components. The bill also requires the Office of Problem Gambling to develop and implement a strategic plan to guide the state's policy regarding problem gambling. This bill does not focus primarily on prevention as the existing law does, but also provides treatment for all those affected, including family.

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 1726 (Judiciary Committee) – Court Interpreters

This bill would ensure language access is provided in civil courts that govern critical cases affecting Californians such as child custody, child support, housing and consumer protections.

Outcome: Two year bill

COMMISSIONERS' BIOGRAPHIES



AKEMI DENISE ARAKAKI - CHAIR

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.



NITASHA SAWHNEY - VICE CHAIR

Nitasha Sawhney is a partner 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 is also a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's "Diversity in the Profession" Committee, the South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT) Policy Taskforce 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. Ms. Sawhney 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. In 2006, Ms. Sawhney was 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.



PHILIP TING - TREASURER

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.





DAVID KIM - SECRETARY

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 degree 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.



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.





NORMAN H. HUI

Norman H. Hui, D.D.S., immediate past 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 and attended the University of California at Berkeley receiving 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.



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.



DIANE MICHIKO UJIYE

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. APIsCAN was recognized as a "Legislative Hero" in 2005 by the API Legislative Caucus and 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 the California Commission on APIA Affairs, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and the English Language Learner Preschool Coalition. She was recognized as one of 100 "Most Influential People" by the *Los Angeles Times* (Our Times Section). 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

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.



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.

Commissioners Paul Osaki, Diane Ujiiye, Akemi Arakaki, Norman Hui, Alexis Wong, Francisco Hsieh and Nitasha Sawhney pose with Assemblymember Alberto Torrico during API Summit dinner in Sacramento



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) enjoyed the support of new and long-standing friends this fourth year of operation.

Our base grew to include individuals and organizations who supported our second annual reception: US Senator Dianne Feinstein, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Charles Woo, Dean Devlin & Electric Entertainment, Garcia Calderon Ruiz LLP, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, Paramount Pictures, Southern California Edison, The Gas Company, Herman Li, Nitasha Sawhney and Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment. Special thanks goes to Khushi Bhatia (event planner), Alliance Artforms and Mike Nakayama for their in-kind contributions.

The Commission's visit to the Central Valley was met with tremendous hospitality from local leaders and residents. Special thanks go to Fresno City Council Member Blong Xiong and his staff Maiyer Vang, Peter Vang and the Hmong Refugee Task Force.

Each year since our inception, the Commission has been privileged to receive consistent support from the California Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus, co-chaired by Assemblymembers Alberto Torrico and Alan Nakanishi. We extend sincere gratitude to the Caucus co-chairs and members: Assemblymembers Mike Eng, Mary Hayashi, Shirley Horton, Ted Lieu, Fiona Ma, Van Tran, Senator Leland Yee, and Board of Equalization Members Betty Yee, Michelle Park Steel and Judy Chu and State Controller John Chiang.

Our work would only go so far without the tireless dedication of the API Legislative Caucus consultant Pam Chueh. We would also like to acknowledge API Caucus intern Linda Tran for her work on this year's annual report. Some of our long-standing partners in fulfilling our mission include: Warren Furutani, Georgette Imura, Maeley Tom, Bill Wong and the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Institute.

The Commission is proud of the partnership with the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force. We remain committed to supporting the much needed work of that task force.

The Commission would not be in existence today without former Assemblymember George Nakano who authored Assembly Bill 116, the legislation that created our commission in 2002.

Murakawa Communications must be recognized for producing this annual report with vision, innovation and a commitment to our mission.

COMMISSION ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS





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For more information on the Commission,
please call (916) 319-3686.