

COMMISSION ON ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS



Annual Report 2005



Rising to the Task:

Facing New Challenges in California's APIA Communities

**Commission on
Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs**

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I

Introduction

The mission of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs is to elevate the political, economic, and social issues of APIAs by contributing to and strengthening how state government addresses the needs, issues, and concerns of the diverse and complex APIA communities.

In 2002, legislation establishing the first advisory body of its kind was signed into law, establishing the Commission on APIA Affairs through Assembly Bill 116, authored by Assemblymember George Nakano and co-authored by members of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. The legislation was conceived and shepherded by the community and, as a result of the community's efforts, it remains a viable public policy vehicle today.

In 2004, the Governor's California Performance Review (CPR) proposed to eliminate 118 state boards and commissions, including the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. APIA community leaders moved quickly to protect the commission, asserting that 1) the Commission receives no state funding and is supported entirely by private sources, 2) it was premature to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Commission, which had been in place for less than one year, and 3) the issues, growth, and needs that under-

scored the establishment for an APIA-specific advisory body remained and solutions had not yet been implemented in a comprehensive manner statewide. Thirty-two members of the California congressional delegation expressed their strong support for the Commission by sending a joint letter to the California Performance Review Commission opposing the proposal to eliminate the Commission. In 2005, the Governor withdrew most of his CPR recommendations, including the proposal to eliminate the Commission on APIA Affairs. The Commission continues to advise the governor, state legislature, and departments on matters pertaining to the more than 4.5 million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in California.

In 2004, the Commission fulfilled its charge by focusing on three main areas of public policy: 1) increasing language access for Limited English Proficient (LEP) speakers in government services, 2) reducing racially motivated violence against APIAs, and 3) helping new Hmong refugees resettle in California. The Hmong refugee resettlement issue culminated in a public hearing co-convened by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus. In 2005, legislation (SB 112) was introduced and signed into law by the Governor to increase funding for counties with more recent refugee populations.



Commission Chair Dr. Norman Hui (far left) stands with Congressman Mike Honda and Supervisor Fiona Ma at the Commission's First Annual Gala Dinner.



Commission Vice-Chair Diane Ujiye (2nd from left) stands with Assemblymember Judy Chu and others at the API Policy Summit.

In 2005, the Commission addressed the complex and multi-faceted issue of problem and pathological gambling as a priority. Problem gambling is the centerpiece of this report. As the gambling industry expands in California, resources to prevent, treat, and educate the public about problem and pathological gambling remain limited.

When exploring the issue, many legislative and budgetary issues were discovered that are of grave concern to the Commission and will require long term, strategic policy efforts to rectify. While daunting at first, the Commission's initiative introduced and facilitated opportunities to unite individuals and organizations who were either developing or refining methods to ameliorate problem and pathological gambling through research, outreach, public education, prevention, intervention, and treatment services.

Early in 2005, the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force (APIPGTF) was formed under the Commission and comprised of commissioners and experts from the field. The APIPGTF is a catalyst for on-going public policy advocacy that can involve other APIA stakeholders throughout the state. Until then, the Commission is committed to supporting the task force's efforts.

The Commission continued its work involving language access, hate crimes, and Hmong refugee resettlement by supporting legislation that addressed these critical issues including: SB 112 (Ortiz) assisting refugees with federal funds; AB 378 (Chu) addressing hate crime victims' monetary restitution; AB 680 (Chan) enhancing opportunities for K-12 parental involvement through translation of school materials; and AB 1015 (Chu) requiring the Attorney General to keep a repository of raw data for all hate crime reports received from local police departments and sheriffs. Additionally, the Commission supported a resolution on publicly funded, voluntary preschool for every child in California.

The Commission's efforts were visible this year in several ways. It held two press conferences on problem gambling and demonstrated leadership in state and national service and policy meetings, including the Second Annual API Policy Summit: Unity in Action. In addition to addressing public policy concerns and overseeing the work of the APIPGTF, the Commission developed

The AAPI Population in California

Source: US Census Bureau

Year	AAPI Population
1920	106,000
1930	168,000
1940	167,000
1950	183,000
1960	318,000
1970	0.5 million
1980	1.2 million
1990	2.8 million
2000	4.2 million
2025	9 million (estimated)

internal operations to ensure that efficient, ethical, and transparent processes, procedures, and protocols were in place to ensure accountability to the public and state government.

Many requests for either support or opposition to legislation, policy, budget, proclamations, resolutions, initiatives, and the like came before the Commission, thus creating the need for a clearly defined decision-making process. In July 2005, a process was adopted that ensured adherence to due process and accountability to the public. In November 2004, the Commission adopted criteria for using advisors. The Commission recognized that while its membership was rich with expertise, knowledge, experience, and public policy perspectives, there remained a need to identify and address issues, populations, regions, and ethnic groups that are not represented on the Commission.

An indication of the Commission's commitment to remaining alive and viable was taking responsibility for fundraising. On October 12, 2005, the Commission held its first fundraiser dinner at the Far East Café in San Francisco. Elected officials and members of the community attended in a show of support for California's

first and only ethnic commission. The Commission recognized former Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton, Congressman Mike Honda, Assemblymember Judy Chu, and former Assemblymember George Nakano for their leadership, commitment, and service to the Asian Pacific Islander American community. The Commission does not receive any state funding and thus relies on the financial support of private sources for its operations.

California's Asian and Pacific Islander American communities are dynamic and growing. The APIA population is projected to more than double from 4 million to 9 million people by 2025. While we represent the spectrum of socio-economic, religious, cultural, and educational attainment, there continue to be challenges as we are still disenfranchised in certain regions and communities.

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs represents optimism and hope for our diverse communities. The Commission will continue to work to elevate the social justice, cultural, linguistic, and civil rights concerns in each of the more than 45 ethnic groups that it serves.



Front row: Sam Joo, Elito Santarina, Akemi Arakaki, Assmblymbr George Nakano, Assmblymbr Judy Chu, Ann Nguyen, Luisa Blue; Second row: Paul Osaki, Norman Hui, Phil Ting, Charlie Woo, David Kim, Albert Seto, Commission Guest, Francisco Hsieh, Alex Kim, Diane Ujiye, Alexis Wong, and Pam Chueh.

II

Executive Summary

This second annual report of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Affairs provides a description of the commissioners, a detailed overview of APIA problem gambling and Commission supported legislation, and an outline of other Commission activities in 2005.

Chapter III. Commissioner Biographies

This chapter provides biographies and photographs of each Commission member. The commissioners reflect the diversity of APIA populations in California.

Chapter IV. Problem Gambling

This Chapter describes how the Commission identified the complex issues regarding the growing problem of gambling among Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in California. Although gambling in its many forms has existed through the ages, problem gambling among APIA populations has become a serious concern. Reports of individual and family problems attributable to problem gambling have risen along with the proliferation of many different forms of gambling and marketing. The Commission responded to requests for assistance due to the con-

cern about the number of gambling establishments near APIA communities and the lack of public education and culturally competent prevention and treatment programs.

Legalized gambling exists in every state except Hawaii and Utah. In 2002, \$69 billion was spent on legalized gambling; more than was spent on all other forms of entertainment combined. California currently has 95 card rooms, 53 casinos, race track betting, and the state lottery games. Legalized gambling in California generates an estimated \$4 billion in annual revenue, and this amount is expected to grow to \$10 billion per year by 2010.¹

While APIA populations represent approximately 10% of Californians, anecdotal reports indicate that as many as 70% of the gamblers in some California casinos are APIAs. Some casinos deliberately located their businesses close to APIA populations and then launched aggressive marketing campaigns directed at them. Other gambling establishments in California and Nevada offer inexpensive bus trips to their casinos each day. Social service agencies have reported that gambling leads to problems related to child welfare and domestic violence.²



Commission Chair Dr. Norman Hui networks at the 2nd Annual API Policy Summit in Sacramento.

In March 2005, the Office of Problem Gambling of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs produced a report, *Situational Assessment of Problem Gambling Services in California*.³ The report showed that there are few specifically trained problem gambling counselors and problem gambling service programs for prevention and treatment in California. For example, there are only two problem gambling “Helpline” phone numbers in the state. These helplines received 13,000 phone calls in 2003. To address problem gambling, the report recommended that a comprehensive range of research, training, services, and policy development activities should be supported.

The dire effects of problem gambling on the lives of California’s APIAs are illustrated by published books and articles regarding individuals who have not only lost money, but also lost much of what was important to them in life. A study by the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition in San Francisco found that gambling was identified as the number one social concern in the Chinese American community. This study also found that the rates of problem gambling for Chinese Americans were much higher than the corresponding rates for mainstream populations.⁴

The Commission took action by joining forces with a community coalition to form the Asian and Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force (APIPGTF). As a result, the task force and the Commission have worked



Congressman Mike Honda accepts an award at the Commission's First Annual Gala Dinner.

together to gather information and make recommendations.

The recommendations from the Asian and Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force are:

- Secure and sustain revenues from all sectors of the gambling industry for prevention and treatment services.
- Adjust the current Special Distribution Fund formula to set-aside funds for prevention and treatment services.
- Establish an APIA Problem Gambling Advisory Body for California.
- Implement APIA treatment services while the Office of Problem Gambling Prevalence Study is being conducted.

Chapter V. Commission Supported Legislation

This chapter presents four pieces of legislation that were of particular interest to the Commission.

- SB 112 (Ortiz) helps counties address the social service needs of refugee populations.
- AB 378 (Chu) extends the statute of limitations for hate crime victims seeking civil recovery from their attackers.
- AB 680 (Chan) encourages parental involvement in the education of their children by strengthening schools’ compliance to translate school notices into languages other than English.

- AB 1015 (Chu) requires law enforcement agencies to provide additional information related to hate crimes.

Chapter VI. Other Activities

This chapter outlines activities the Commission participated in throughout the year.

- The Commission participated in the Second Annual California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Policy Summit in Sacramento in June 2005.
- The Commission supported the statewide preschool public policy movement and “Preschool for All” by signing on to the resolution.
- The Commission held a fundraising gala to support its operations.



Members of the Commission speak at a press conference regarding the California Performance Review (CPR)

III

Commissioner Biographies



Norman Hui, DDS (*chair*) 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, where he attended The University of California at Berkley and received his degree in Biological Science in 1966. He subsequently received his DDS from the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco. Dr. Hui's political activism began by serving as a member of the Board of Directors of his children's school. His community activities continued as a member of the Board of Directors of The Lions Club where he was subsequently elected president of the San Francisco Chinatown Lions Club. He was also one of the founders of the annual San Francisco Health Screening Fair for the poor and homeless. From 1992 to 2002, Dr. Hui was chairperson of the Board of Directors of NEMS. Dr. Hui was also one of the founding members of the Organization of Chinese Americans East Bay Chapter and was president of the group from 1999 to 2002. He is a member of the Chinese American Political Association (CAPA) of which he was president in 1995 and continues to be heavily involved with political forums and fundraising activities for various political candidates.



Diane Michiko Ujiye (*vice-chair*) is the Director of the Asian Pacific Islander California Action Network (APIsCAN), a statewide collaborative network of Asian and Pacific Islander American health, human service, education, and immigrant rights organizations. She has over 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 adolescent treatment, gang intervention, HIV/AIDS prevention and training, tobacco control, and community organizing contracts in four facilities in Los Angeles County. In 1999, she was recognized as one of the 100 "Most Influential People" by the Los Angeles Times (Our Times Section). Her civic experience includes serving on the 24th Senatorial District (Romero) Asian American Advisory Council and the 49th Assembly District (Chu) Immigrant Issues Advisory Council. In 2004, she was appointed to the Citizen's Oversight Committee of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). She was the Vice President of Planning, as well as the Chair, of the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Committee, and a member of the Welfare Reform Task Force, of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) in Los Angeles. Ms. Ujiye continues to be an A3PCON board member.



Akemi Denise Arakaki (*secretary*), 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 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 is the Senior Vice President of Worldwide Publicity for Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. He oversees the worldwide corporate communications and product publicity activities for SPHE as well as the publicity for the Sony Pictures Digital Studios and Sony Pictures Releasing. He began his career in the video industry in 1980 when he joined Columbia Pictures Home Entertainment. Mr. Friedman held key marketing positions before creating the Publicity Division. A graduate of Vassar College, where he was an Asian Studies Major, he received his Masters Degree in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Filipino American Library and Executive Director for the Assembly for Justice. He sits on the Boards of the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, the San Diego Asian American Film Festival and Loyola Productions. He has received awards from Filipinas Magazines, SIPA (Search to Involve Pilipino Americans), and the Asian Business League. Last year, he was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award from Cinemanila in The Philippines. He was also given a National Citation from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Mr. Friedman is based at the Sony Pictures Worldwide Headquarters in Culver City.



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.



David J. Kim is the GM of SME Solutions and VP of Business Development at Efficient Frontier, a leading venture-backed search engine marketing/technology company in Mountain View. After receiving a BS Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, he worked for BankAmerica Robertson Stephens, the investment banking division of BankAmerica corporation. After earning an MS Engineering Management degree from Stanford, he worked for Andersen Consulting as a Senior Strategy Consultant. He went on to found two enterprise software companies: Enverta, Inc., and Wizwam Technologies, LLC. He has also filled key management positions at Yahoo! Inc. Mr. Kim has been a board member of the Korean American Coalition since 1997, serving terms as National President, Vice President, and National Board Representative. Mr. Kim is also a fellow of the Overseas Korean Foundation.



Ann T. Nguyen has focused her career on minority populations and hard to reach communities. She is a District Representative to Senator Deborah Ortiz, who represents the most diverse city in the nation, Sacramento. In this capacity, she has tackled tough issues relating to economic challenges in higher education, access to health care, and immigration and naturalization concerns. She is a Board Member on the TV Channel KCRA 3 Asian Advisory Committee, where she consults on the station's programming and outreach to the APIA community in the Central Valley region. She was the Vice-President and Fundraising Chair of Asian Resources, Inc., a \$2 million community based organization focused on employment and training needs for recent immigrants. During the Census 2000 California Complete Count Campaign, she was a Special Consultant. The campaign gained California over \$4 billion in federal funds and one additional congressional representative seat. She was also integral to Sacramento's local redistricting efforts where she ensured that the APIA community was appropriately represented in local government. Ann has a strong commitment to public service and an excellent reputation for integrity and fairness. Throughout her career, Ms. Nguyen has promoted education, accountability, opportunity, and compassion in all that she does.



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.

photo
not
available

Albert Seto is the owner of Seto's Construction, which he established in 1990. After earning a BS degree in Civil Engineering in Hong Kong, Mr. Seto came to the United States in 1968. He worked as an engineer at PBQ&D Inc., Trans Bay Engineer, and IED, Inc., while taking classes at the University of California Extension. In 1974 he was made the Chief Civil and Structural Engineer for Frederiksen Engineering Co. and in 1984 the President of Teakco Corporation. Mr. Seto has also been active in the community through his memberships in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA. He has also played an important role in the American Asian Contractors Association, of which he is a past President and current Director. He has had an influence on local government through his role as the President of the Relocation Appeals Board for the City and County of San Francisco. He also served as a Commissioner for the Landmarks Preservation Board for the City and County of San Francisco.



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.



Alexis Wong (*treasurer*), the founder and president of AGI Capital Group, has over 16 years of experience in various facets of the real estate industry, including asset management, development, construction management, and investment property brokerage. Since 1998, Ms. Wong has led AGI Capital to growth as a multi-million dollar business. Gov. Gray Davis and Sen. John Burton appointed her to various statewide commissions, including the California Real Estate Advisory Commission, World Trade Commission, and the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. She was recently appointed by Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi to the California Organized Investment Network Advisory Board. In addition to her professional achievements in California, she also has extensive experience working with businesses based in Asia and is active in philanthropic organizations including local and international political, cultural and environmental groups. She is the President of the Oakland China Wildlife Preservation Foundation, leading the effort to obtain a pair of giant pandas from China for the Oakland Zoo. Ms. Wong received a BA in Marketing and MBA in International Management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.



Charles Woo is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Megatoys, a toy manufacturing, import/export, and wholesale company in downtown Los Angeles. In addition, he 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 came to Los Angeles from Hong Kong at 17 to attend UCLA, and majored in Physics. He graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1972 and a Master's degree in 1975. He was the 2001 Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the first Asian American chair in its 114 years of existence. His accomplishments have been covered by major news organizations such as the Los Angeles Times, Fortune, CNN, NPR, and The Economist. Mr. Woo also finds time to serve on many boards of charitable and non-profit groups such as the Los Angeles Library Foundation, Metropolitan Los Angeles YMCA, American Red Cross LA Chapter, and the UCLA Foundation. Mr. Woo, his wife, Ying, and their two sons, Geoffrey and Justin, live in Rancho Palos Verdes.

IV

Problem Gambling

Background

This section will address the issue of problem gambling in California in relation to the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) populations. The issue of problem gambling is complex, because there is legal gambling of various sorts, such as the state lottery, and many people are social or recreational gamblers who never become problem gamblers. On the other hand, many Californians are concerned about the rapid increase in the numbers and types of gambling establishments and forms of gambling. Relatively little research or data are available to define the nature and extent of problem gambling in all of its forms across the state. The lack of data and research is particularly true about certain segments of the population, such as women and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

Although statewide prevalence data are not available for APIA populations, some research has shown that APIAs may have significantly higher rates of problem gambling compared with that of mainstream populations. This research and anecdotal information suggest that what we know of the extent of APIA problem gambling is only the tip of the iceberg. We also know that few culturally competent problem gambling prevention and treatment services are available for APIA populations

anywhere in the state. Although the numbers of gambling establishments have rapidly increased across the state, the numbers of problem gambling prevention and treatment programs for APIA populations have not. The Problem Gambling Program of the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition in San Francisco remains the only service in California specifically dedicated to treating APIA problem gamblers.

Many APIA community service providers and community leaders believe that the number of APIA problem gamblers is disproportionately high among the patrons of gambling establishments. The financial cost to APIA families is often devastating and the human cost is immeasurable.

This section will address the nature of problem gambling, the effect of problem gambling across the state for all populations, and the effect of problem gambling on APIA populations. Also discussed in this section is the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs' (the Commission) work through the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force (APIPGTF). The work of the Commission and the task force is outlined below including their recommendations.

What is “Problem Gambling”?

“Problem gambling” refers to people whose gambling causes personal and family problems, but falls short of meeting the formal diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling. Pathological gambling is an addiction that disrupts a person’s life, family, and job, and may lead to crime.¹ In this section the term “problem gambling” will refer to the full continuum of gambling behavior.

The United States Gambling Industry: The gambling industry in the United States continues to expand. Among all U.S. adults, 80% have gambled at least once in the past year. Every state in the United States, except Hawaii and Utah, has some form of legalized gambling. In 2002, the revenue in the United States for legal gambling was \$69 billion. More money is spent on legal gambling than on all other forms of entertainment combined.²

The Gambling Industry in California: The gambling industry in California has also been expanding rapidly. In California there are currently 53 tribal casinos, 95 card rooms, horseracing, and state lottery games. Also, gambling establishments in Nevada are within driving distance for many Californians, who go to Reno, Laughlin, and Las Vegas. The legal gambling industry in California is estimated to generate revenue of approximately \$4 billion per year, and this number is expected to rise to \$10 billion by 2010.³ Since 1999, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Native American tribal casinos in California. An article, “Dealt a Bad Hand: Casinos Target the Bay Area’s Asian Communities to Pump-up Business”⁴ states that on average, APIAs constitute about 70% of the gamblers at the Lucky Chances Casino in Colma, California. The Lucky Chances Casino in Colma runs television commercials on the Chinese language station KTSF. The APIA population in the San Francisco Bay Area is about 20%. Casinos that cater to the APIA populations employ dealers who speak Asian languages, provide gambling related to APIA cultural traditions and celebrate traditional APIA holidays. Buses take APIA gamblers from San Francisco’s Chinatown to Harrah’s Casino in Reno, Nevada, or to the Cache Creek Casino in Brooks, California. The casinos also market heavily to specific APIA populations.⁵

Problem gambling can also cause serious family problems.

For example, Hieu Tran is a Santa Clara County social service worker who founded San Jose Together Against Gambling. He treats child neglect cases and says that about 20% of APIA cases are caused by problem gambling.⁶

“In 2002, the revenue in the United States for legal gambling was \$69 billion. More money is spent on legal gambling than on all other forms of entertainment combined.”

Tina Shum is a family counselor at the Donaldina Cameron House in Chinatown in San Francisco. She says that about 30% of the APIA domestic violence cases are related to gambling.⁷

Tom Bowling, vice president of the Hollywood Park Casino in Inglewood, California, and board member of the California Council on Problem Gambling,

says, “There are many casinos located in California that are dependent on Asian communities for their continued success.” Further, some of the card rooms are specifically located in areas where large APIA populations can be targeted.⁸

Sally Hogarty, the director of public relations for the Casino San Pablo, in San Pablo, California, says that APIA populations are targeted through Asian language advertising on TV and in print. Casino San Pablo celebrates the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Cambodian new years and employs APIA music promoters, celebrities, and performers from Vietnam and Cambodia to provide entertainment at the casino.⁹

Situational Assessment of Problem Gambling Services in California Report, March 2005

The California Council on Problem Gambling on behalf of the Office of Problem Gambling, Program Services Division, California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs developed this assessment under contract. The primary authors were Rachel A. Volberg, Lori Rugle, Richard J. Rosenthal, and Tim Fong.

The purpose of the report was to assist the Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) in implementing Assembly Bill 673 (Chapter 210, 2003 Statutes) which established problem gambling services in California. “The report identifies the current status of problem gambling research, programs, and services in California and internationally and is the first-step in California’s problem gambling strategic planning.”¹⁰



Study methods: The first step involved a comprehensive review of the existing research and literature regarding problem gambling. The term problem gambling was used to “encompass the entire spectrum of gambling-related difficulties from social or recreational gambling through the most severe form, pathological gambling, which is a recognized psychiatric disorder.” The second step involved telephone and electronic mail surveys using a representative sample of problem gambling programs and agencies in California.

Assessment findings were summarized as follows:

1. Identifying and maintaining key indicator data that will serve to monitor regular gambling behavior and problem gambling: The most recent prevalence study on problem gambling in California is from 1990. There are no studies addressing other aspects of gambling such as attitudes toward legalized gambling, nor consistent data from the gambling industry across the state.

2. Strategic planning and coordination among state agencies, the gambling industry, and other key stakeholders who support community-based planning: A state-level entity to coordinate California problem gambling activities does not currently exist. The state may want to use the existing county alcohol and drug abuse service network throughout the state to support community-based problem gambling planning and services.

3. Developing science-based policies and regulations that govern access to the operations behind the gambling

industry: A combination of genetic, psychological, social, and environmental risk factors contributes to the development of problem gambling. Policies that enhance access to electronic gambling machines, casino table games, and other forms of gambling will increase problem gambling. This increase in problem gambling is likely to raise the proportion of women, ethnic populations, and new immigrants who gamble. While electronic gambling devices may include features to reduce the likelihood of players losing control over their gambling, these features have not been studied and their effectiveness has not been evaluated.

4. Increasing workforce capacity to identify, intervene, refer, and treat problem gamblers: According to data from the situational assessment of problem gambling services, 37% of gambling industry personnel had attended a problem gambling training session in the past five years while only about 2% of law enforcement and education agency representatives had participated in such training. About 75% of crisis and treatment services personnel did not know where to refer their clients for problem gambling services or knew only of Gambler’s Anonymous as a referral resource. Currently there are no state-supported training programs for treatment providers in California for problem gambling.

5. Providing science-based education, prevention, intervention, and treatment services: Since 2000, various organizations, associations, and agencies have used science-based educational services to raise public awareness regarding problem gambling. However, these awareness efforts have not yet been evaluated. At the same time, media campaigns promote gambling, a factor that presents a challenge for problem gambling prevention efforts.

Some sectors of the gambling industry have undertaken science-based prevention services. For example, some gambling venues post signs informing patrons about problem gambling helpline phone numbers and “voluntary exclusion programs.” Voluntary exclusion programs give the gambler the option to allow the gambling establishment to prevent the gambler from specified activities, such as entering the gambling establishment or playing certain games. However, in order to be effective, these voluntary exclusion programs must be integrated with other problem gambling services in the community.

There are four statewide problem gambling helpline phone numbers. In 2003, the helplines received more than 13,000 phone calls. Of these calls, most (60%) came from Southern California, 20% came from the San Francisco Bay Area, and 15% came from the Sacramento or Fresno areas. Based on the experience of problem gambling helplines in other countries, it is essential that these helplines have adequate problem gambling counseling and self-help services for callers. Also, helpline staff and volunteers need to be properly trained to understand the issues related to problem gambling, such as the potential for suicide and psychological and substance abuse disorders.

Science-based intervention and treatment services are needed for problem gambling. Although AB 673 established the statutory framework for the Office of Problem Gambling within the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to provide prevention services, there is no state funding for treatment services in California. Problem gambling treatment providers generally have difficulty obtaining health insurance payments for their services. Only 21% of the crisis and treatment providers surveyed in California offered treatment for problem gambling. Most of these services are in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties and in the counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. There is clearly an enormous gap between the need for problem gambling treatment services and the resources available in the state.

The treatment strategy for pathological gambling often involves cognitive-behavioral approaches. The treatment for pathological gambling may sometimes be delivered within a specialized program or as part of an existing service, such as substance abuse treatment. The variety of pathological gambling treatment approaches need to be evaluated. It should not be assumed that service providers who treat similar disorders are thereby skilled in treating pathological gambling. There is also the possibility that “natural recovery” will occur in which a problem gambler will recover without treatment or self-help groups.

6. Continuously evaluating and modifying policy and service effectiveness: AB 673 requires that the Office of Problem Gambling evaluate the effectiveness of problem gambling services and identify best practices for prevention and treatment. When funding becomes available for prevention and treatment services, an evaluation component should be included.



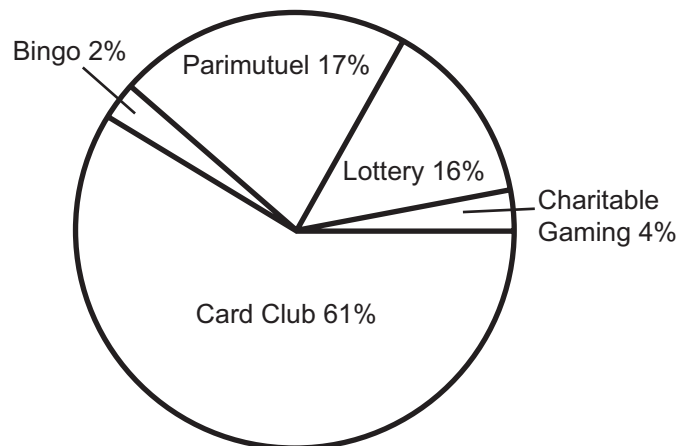
Warning Signs of Problem Gambling

Source: Gamblers Anonymous ¹¹

- Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
- Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
- Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
- After losing did you feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
- After a win did you have a strong urge to return and win more?
- Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
- Have you ever considered self destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

Size of legal, non-Indian Gambling in California by 1995 Handle*

Source: International Gaming and Wagering Business ¹²



*“handle” refers to the total amount wagered.

The Situational Assessment Report concluded that the increasing access to electronic gambling machines and other continuous gambling forms, such as casino table games and track betting, will increase problem gambling and related problems in the future. The demographic profile of problem gamblers in the future is likely to change.

It is unclear how and to what extent problem gambling can be prevented. Gambling regulations and policies will require “strategic planning and a comprehensive monitoring system in California.” Effective public awareness campaigns are needed to help generate calls to helplines and treatment services. Brief intervention services and public awareness campaigns are likely to reach a larger proportion of the state population than formal, clinically-based treatment programs can reach. Research on problem gambling is needed to develop a theoretical understanding of the problem and to design and evaluate effective interventions. Long-term strategic plans for intervention and adequate funding are needed to ensure that the effect of legal, commercial gambling in California is addressed through prevention and treatment services.

The Effect of APIA Problem Gambling on Personal Lives in California

The human costs of problem gambling are immeasurable. For example, Bill Lee published a book, *Born to Lose: Memoirs of A Compulsive Gambler*,¹³ which addresses how gambling affected his life. The author’s autobiographical story recounts his life growing up in San Francisco and then working for a technology firm. Later, he lost his job, home, and family due to pathological gambling. Today, Mr. Lee is in recovery and has transformed his life.

APIAs were targeted by card clubs and casinos in the mid 1980s with “Asian Games” rooms featuring Pai Gow Poker. In 1991, the *Los Angeles Times* printed a special magazine issue titled, “The Hottest Game in Town: Thousands of Asian Gamblers, Hooked on The High Stakes Action of Pai Gow Are Transforming California’s Casinos.”¹⁴ The article showed that legalizing Pai Gow and targeting marketing campaigns at the large APIA populations led to a gambling boom and an increase in APIA problem gamblers. APIA problem gambling resulted in the emergence of informal APIA

“pawnshops” that operate in the casinos and charge high interest rates or “juice;” “shoe-shiners,” those who bring good luck to gamblers; “black cats,” those who bring bad luck to gamblers; and “bombers,” those who steal chips from gamblers.

“APIAs were targeted by card clubs and casinos in the mid 1980s with ‘Asian Games’ rooms featuring Pai Gow.”

Bun Tek Ngoy is a Chinese Cambodian immigrant who created a successful business owning doughnut shops in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Known as the “Doughnut King,” he helped many Cambodians start doughnut shops. Due to problem gambling, however, he lost a fortune, his family, and his home. Ngoy’s

story was published in a *Los Angeles Times* article, “From Sweet Success to Bitter Tears: The Immigrant Who Became the Doughnut King Had Wealth and Clout—and A Nasty Gambling Habit. Now He Sleeps On A Trailer Porch.”¹⁵

The Effect of Problem Gambling on Asian and Pacific Islander American Communities in California

APIA problem gambling data is primarily based on regional or anecdotal information. The statewide prevalence study currently underway will provide much needed data regarding existing APIA problem gambling issues.

A survey conducted in San Francisco by the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition found that the Chinese American community identified gambling as its number one social concern (70% of respondents).

The NICOS Chinese Health Coalition study also found that Chinese American adults had much higher rates of gambling than those of the general U.S. population and of the general California population. The NICOS study found that 84% of Chinese American adults reported gambling at least once in the past year, while 15% were classified as problem gamblers and 21% were classified as pathological gamblers.¹⁶

In the Toy, S.; Wong, A. (1999) study, the most popular forms of gambling were lotteries, casinos, and mahjong. Half of those surveyed reported knowing someone with a gambling problem and nearly one-third of those surveyed reported gambling once a week.¹⁷



Eighty-six percent (86%) of the pathological gamblers reported living in the U.S. for six years or longer. Those who gambled more frequently were males, ages 55 years and older, married, had limited education, and an annual household income of no more than \$40,000.

In contrast to pathological gamblers, problem gamblers were likely to be English-speaking males, between the ages of 18 to 34 or 65 years and older, married, college educated, have annual household incomes of \$30,000 or less, and reside in the United States for over 20 years.¹⁸ The finding that APIA problem gamblers tend to be more educated than pathological gamblers, yet tend to have lower incomes, demonstrates the need for further research in this area.

There are few culturally competent APIA problem gambling treatment programs in California. The only formal problem gambling treatment program specifically for APIAs in the state is the Chinese Community Problem Gambling Project provided by the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition in San Francisco.¹⁹ A few additional APIA community-based agencies provide counseling services for APIA problem gamblers, but they do not offer a specialized problem gambling treatment program. There are also few APIA Gamblers Anonymous groups in California.

The Commission Establishes the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force

The Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force on APIA Problem Gambling in California became a formal Subcommittee of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs in November 2004. A fact sheet was produced and used to brief the API Legislative Caucus. The fact sheet, written by Commissioner Diane Ujjiye in February 2005, outlined the concern regarding problem and pathological gambling, and the role of the Office of Problem Gambling within the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs in Sacramento and of the APIPGTF.²⁰

The APIPGTF was formed because of the concern for the large numbers of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans seen gambling in many gambling establishments throughout California (and Nevada). Further, many APIA service providers recognized that difficulties for individuals and families including marital problems, domestic violence, and child welfare issues arose due to problem gambling. The APIPGTF was also aware that APIA problem gambling was a concern in other states, such as Minnesota. The study conducted by the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition



The APIPGTF was well represented at the Second Annual Asian Pacific Islander Summit.

in San Francisco and others listed previously raised sufficient concern which led to the formation of the task force.

The Office of Problem Gambling was formed in 1997 within the California Department of Mental Health. It was moved to the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs by AB 673 (Chapter 210, 2003 Statutes, approved by the government on August 9, 2003). The office began with an annual budget of \$3 million through a Special Distribution Fund. The full \$3 million in fiscal 2004 was unspent and remained in the Special Distribution Fund. Most of the fiscal 2005 funds will be spent. However, about \$400,000 will be carried over to fiscal 2006.

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs adopted problem gambling as a priority for 2005 at its meeting in November 2004 and also adopted the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force as one of its subcommittees. Three commissioners serve on the APIPGTF: Dr. Norman Hui (commission chair), Paul Osaki from San Francisco, and Diane Ujiiye (commission vice-chair) from Los Angeles. Other task force members include Kent Woo, NICOS Chinese Health Coalition in San Francisco; Alicia DeLeon-Torres, API Constituent Committee of the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs from San Diego; Dr. Tim Fong, Gambling Studies Program, UCLA School of Medicine; and Dr. Ford Kuramoto, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse in Los Angeles.

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs Addresses APIA Problem Gambling

The APIPGTF began work on this issue in November 2004. In December 2004, a letter from the Commission was sent to the Asian Pacific Islander Constituent Committee (APICC) of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to request its endorsement of the Commission's initiative. The APICC responded with full support and designated a representative to serve on the APIPGTF. The task force also convened a meeting in Sacramento to develop an action plan regarding APIA problem gambling. This action plan included developing a "white paper" to analyze APIA problem gambling and to develop plans for a collaborative relationship with the Native American tribes, the Office of Problem Gambling, ADP, the California Council on Problem Gambling, and other organizations regarding an APIA problem gambling prevalence study.

In January 2005, Commissioner Diane Ujiiye representing the Commission and Dr. Ford Kuramoto of the APIPGTF attended a board meeting of the California Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) at the Crystal Park Casino in Los Angeles. The purpose of attending this CCPG meeting was to develop a dialogue between the CCPG and the APIPGTF. At this meeting, a plan for supporting National Problem Gambling Awareness Week in March 2005 was discussed. The task force also convened a conference call to discuss the status of the Situational Assessment Report, the prevalence study proposed by the Office of Problem Gambling, and the funds that would be returned to the Special Distribution Fund after June 2005.

In March 2005, there were press conferences in San Francisco and Los Angeles to publicize National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. Assemblymembers Judy Chu and Dennis Mountjoy collaborated to produce Assembly Resolution 618 supporting National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. Assemblymember Judy Chu presented a copy of Assembly Resolution 618 to the APIPGTF at the press conference in San Gabriel, California. Commissioner Paul Osaki represented the APIPGTF at the resolution ceremony. The National Problem Gambling Awareness Week press conferences involved Assemblymembers Wilma Chan, Judy Chu, and members of the Commission on Asian and Pacific

Islander American Affairs and the APIPGTF. Task force conference calls were held to plan the press conferences and the follow-up work.

In April 2005, the APIPGTF and the commission participated in the Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN) legislative conference in Sacramento. Assemblymember Judy Chu was a plenary speaker addressing APIA problem gambling. Kent Woo of the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition of Problem Gambling Program in San Francisco was the facilitator at the conference for the “Problem Gambling Roundtable” session. Problem gambling is one of three banner policy issues for the APIsCAN legislative conference, and related issues and recommendations were presented during visits with more than 18 legislators. Commissioner Diane Ujiiye met with Allison Harvey, executive director of the California Tribal Business Alliance, to discuss APIA problem gambling issues.

The APIPGTF also participated in the Regional Conference of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA) in May 2005 in Los Angeles. The NAPAFASA Conference program included an APIA problem gambling workshop, which featured Dr. Tim Fong, UCLA Problem Gambling Program; Dr. Eddie Chu, a counselor in the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition Problem Gambling Program in San Francisco; “Elizabeth B.”, and “Angela L.” of API Problem Gamblers Anonymous in Los Angeles; Le Nguyen, Asian American Drug Abuse Program in Los Angeles; and Kathryn McGraw-Schuchman, of the API Problem Gambling Counseling Service of the Multicultural Center for Integrated Health in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The APIPGTF was well represented at the Second Annual Asian Pacific Islander Summit, “Unity in Action” on June 6, 2005, in Sacramento. An APIA problem gambling workshop was chaired by Commissioner Diane Ujiiye, vice-chair of the CAPIAA; Kent Woo of the NICOS Chinese Health Coalition Problem Gambling Program in San Francisco, and Dr. Tim Fong, co-director of the Gambling Studies Program at the UCLA School of Medicine.

General Recommendations Regarding APIA Problem Gambling from the Asian Pacific Islander Problem Gambling Task Force

After an analysis of state policies, the APIPGTF made the following initial recommendations.

“Other states, such as Wisconsin, have set aside between 0.5% and 1% of all gross revenues for treatment, prevention, and education of pathological gambling.”

Recommendation 1: Establish a statewide problem gambling advisory group with at least two APIA members. Fifty percent of this advisory group should be individuals “impacted by problem or pathological gambling and who do not have a vested interest (financial or otherwise) in gambling.” This advisory group should have fiscal oversight over the Office of Problem Gambling’s budget development, monitoring, and implementation.

Recommendation 2: With respect to the problem gambling prevalence study, it is recommended that the Office of Problem Gambling involve a broad range of stakeholders in providing input and monitoring, such as APIA language considerations. Also, the Office of Problem Gambling should contract with an organization that has demonstrated expertise in engaging APIA communities and that can help ensure that the study is performed in a culturally competent manner.

Recommendation 3: The Office of Problem Gambling should form an APIA advisory group. This APIA advisory group would develop recommendations that specifically address issues related to the accessibility to services, outreach, and retention of APIAs in problem gambling service programs. The APIPGTF would recommend individuals for the APIA advisory group.

Recommendation 4: With respect to the fiscal 2005 budget of the Office of Problem Gambling, the task force recommends that unspent funds be carried over from fiscal 2005 to fiscal 2006. These funds should be used to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and outreach materials. Appropriate ADP service providers and delivery systems should be used and ADP should consider using its technical assistance contractors as subcontractors with APIA problem gambling service organizations to develop in-language APIA problem gambling materials.

Recommendation 5: The existing problem gambling helplines should receive continued support from the Office of Problem Gambling at the same level for fiscal 2006.

Additional Specific Recommendations

In addition to the recommendations listed above, there were four specific recommendations that were developed by the APIPGTF after further study and analysis.

Recommendation 1: Secure and sustain revenues from all sectors of the gambling industry for prevention and treatment services. The current budget of \$3 million administered by the OPG to address problem gambling is from the Special Distribution Fund (SDF). Out of 53 gaming tribes, 26 contribute to this fund, which is based on revenue from slot machines in operation as of September 1, 1999. California yields between \$5 billion and \$10 billion in revenue from gambling, yet card rooms, horse-tracks, video lottery, non-gaming casinos and the like do not contribute funds to address problem gambling. Other states, such as Wisconsin, have set aside between 0.5% and 1% of all gross revenues for treatment and prevention of, and education about pathological gambling. The current allocation from the SDF falls well below the amounts allocated in other states.

Recommendation 2: Adjust the current SDF formula to set aside funds for prevention and treatment services. The existing SDF of approximately \$88 million does not require a percentage or portion of the fund to address problem gambling. Tribes contribute revenues each quarter to the fund at the rate of as much as 13% of the

average net win from slot machines. While there have been attempts to allocate large sums of this fund (for example, SB 288) as grants to local government agencies, there is no mandate nor criteria to ensure that support is required to address problem gambling. These funds can be used now to address clear and obvious gaps in prevention, education, outreach, case management, and treatment.

Recommendation 3: Establish an APIA Problem Gambling Advisory Body for California. Many APIA service providers and leaders and some casino owners believe that the numbers of APIA problem gamblers are disproportionately high. The APIPGTF's recommendation to establish such an APIA advisory body to the OPG was rejected. While APIA patronage in gambling outlets is common, the ability of APIAs to affect statewide decision making on an on-going basis is hampered. APIAs must have the visibility and access to public policy processes. If we are restricted to having only token representation on existing bodies, our presence and the effect of our efforts will be diluted.

Recommendation 4: Implement treatment services while the Office of Problem Gambling Prevalence Study is being conducted. The 2005 Prevalence Study is an important step toward reaching a better understanding of the problem and collecting important empirical data regarding APIAs and problem gambling. The OPG estimates that 500,000 to 1 million Californians contend with problem gambling, and we believe that a significant percentage of those individuals are APIA. Using SDF funds, treatment services should begin now and should not wait for the Prevalence Study and responsive action plan to be analyzed and completed.

V

Commission Supported Legislation

In 2005, there were several pieces of legislation in the State Assembly and State Senate that were of particular interest to the Asian and Pacific Islander American communities. The legislation addressed such issues as the statute of limitations for hate crimes, statistics on hate crimes, translation of school materials for parents, and distribution of federal funding for refugees.

SB 112 (Ortiz)

On November 16, 2004, a hearing was held on Hmong refugee resettlement. The hearing was sponsored by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, and the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. The hearing was held because the U.S. government granted refugee status to approximately 16,000 Hmong, a decision that allowed the Hmong to resettle in the United States. To date, federal refugee aid dollars have been allocated to affected counties in California based on the percentage of eligible refugees living there. Under this bill, a formula was established giving additional weight to more recent refugees. The net effect was that funding was increased in some counties and decreased in others. The bill passed 79-0 in the Assembly and 36-4 in the Senate. It was approved by the Governor and chaptered by the Secretary of State on October 4, 2005.¹

AB 378 (Chu)

This bill extended the statute of limitations for hate crime victims to recover monetary penalties under California's Ralph and Bane acts. The previous statute of limitations allowed only one year after the underlying incident to seek civil recovery. This limit did not take into account the time required to prosecute hate crimes. Forcing victims to bring civil suit within one year of the underlying incident could jeopardize the outcome of the criminal trial, due to the discovery process that takes place in a civil action. This bill changed the statute of limitations to three years from the date of the underlying incident. The bill passed 78-0 in the Assembly and 23-12 in the Senate. It was approved by the Governor and chaptered by the Secretary of State on July 25, 2005.²

AB 680 (Chan)

The bill enhances opportunities for parental involvement in K-12 education by strengthening compliance with Education Code Section 48985, which requires school districts to translate notices and materials for parents into the primary languages of substantial English Language Learner populations. Before this bill was passed, schools were required to translate notices into languages other than English if more than 15% of the

students reported speaking another language at home. This bill addressed the lack of a monitoring system to ensure compliance. As a result of this bill, the Coordinated Compliance Review (CCR) will ensure that the proper notices are being translated. The CCR is the standard process that ensures that schools receiving state and federal funds are following their regulations. The bill passed 47-32 in the Assembly and was then amended before being passed 26-12 in the Senate on September 6, 2005. On September 7, the Assembly placed it in the inactive file. As of September 13, it was inactive.³

AB 1015 (Chu)

Currently, local law enforcement agencies are required to report information regarding hate crimes to the state Department of Justice. The state attorney general then submits an annual hate crimes report to the legislature. This bill requires local law enforcement agencies, and in turn, the state Department of Justice to report the personal characteristics of hate crime victims. On March 29, 2005, the first hearing for the bill was canceled at the request of the bill’s author. Although the status of the bill remains active, no action has been taken since then.⁴

Current Legislation Status	
<i>Source: California State Senate⁵</i>	
Bill	Status
SB 112, Refugee Allocation	Signed
AB 378, Hate Crimes	Signed
AB 680, Translation of School Notices	Two Year Bill
AB 1015, Hate Crimes Data Collection	Two Year Bill



Commission members and other community leaders discuss the impact of legislation on California’s APIA communities.

VI

Other Activities

Second Annual California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Policy Summit and Dinner

The Second Annual API Legislative Caucus Policy Summit was held on Monday, June 6, 2005, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. Attendees included leaders from every facet of the greater APIA community. The summit featured workshops on topics ranging from mental health and APIA youth violence to legislative and budget advocacy and the portrayal of APIAs in the media. Each workshop featured a presentation by experts in the field, enabling members of the Commission who attended the summit to gain new information about issues that are most important to APIAs.

AB 116, which established the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, was highlighted during the summit dinner, and the Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIs-CAN) was recognized for having sponsored the legislation. APIs-CAN acknowledged former Assemblymember George Nakano (who was the author of AB 116) as well as the API Legislative Caucus, which worked for its passage.

Preschool for All Resolution

The Commission signed onto a resolution to support the principle of providing preschool for all children because it believes preschool is important for APIA children. The philosophy behind universal preschool is that it is an opportunity to provide California children with a good start.

Preschool Opportunity For All is an advocacy campaign with the goal of implementing publicly funded, high quality, voluntary preschool for all four-year olds in California. Preschool California filed the Preschool for All Act and is currently gathering signatures for the June 2006 statewide ballot. If the ballot initiative passes, AB 172, sponsored by Assemblymember Wilma Chan, would implement it.

California needs to give more children the opportunity for high quality early childhood education. Only half of California's four year old children attend preschool. The preschools they attend may not be high quality facilities or have adequately trained teachers. Children who qualify for the current publicly funded preschool programs face long waiting lists in 75% of those preschools. Many middle-class families face the quandary

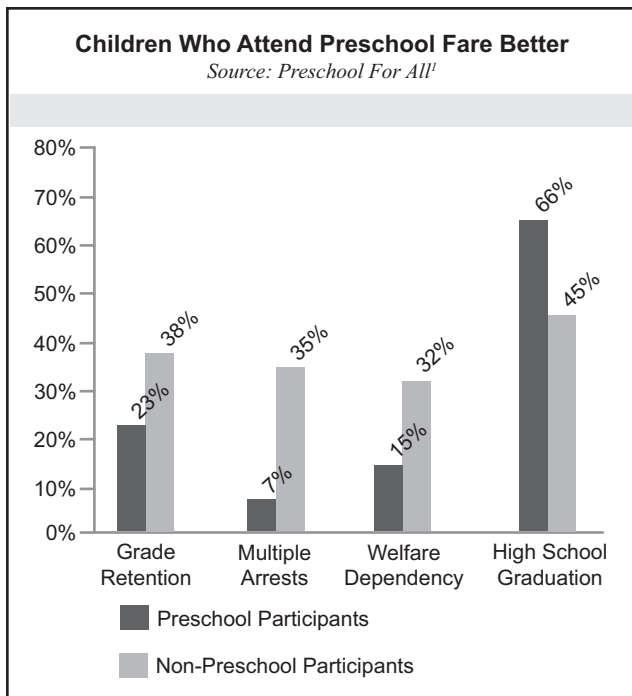


Participants at the 2nd Annual API Policy Summit discuss policy priorities at a workshop session.

ed households.⁴ Preschool is essential to the children growing up in these families in order for them to learn English and reduce the stress caused by acculturation issues. Without preschool, children from linguistically isolated households can enter kindergarten ill prepared and then spend the rest of their school years catching up. Preschool can provide a cultural and linguistic bridge between home and school. Publicly funded, affordable preschools allow parents to be productive workers knowing their children are receiving good care and education.

Fundraising

The Commission does not receive any funding from the state and must depend on private donations. In October 2005, a gala fundraising dinner was held in Northern California at the Far East Café in San Francisco. A corresponding fundraising event will be held in Southern California next year. The purpose of the dinner was to raise money and involve the APIA community in the Commission’s work. These events help the Commission to develop visibility, involvement, and support within the APIA community. Community involvement also helps the Commission to properly reflect statewide APIA community concerns and views on pertinent issues.



of having too much income to qualify for the federal Headstart program, but not enough to be able to afford private preschools. Children who attend preschool have improved performance in grade school. Preschool can better prepare California’s children for kindergarten and beyond.²

The current preschool enrollment rate for APIAs in California is 50%, which is less than the rates for whites (58%) or African Americans (56%).³ The effect of such low enrollment can be devastating. Twenty-six percent of APIAs in California come from linguistically isolat-

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VI. Other Activities

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The Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs had tremendous support from an array of individuals and organizations this year. Many individuals gave their time and expertise to ensure that we exceeded our mandate in our second year of operation.

The commission shall continually recognize former Assemblymember George Nakano for authoring the legislation. And once again, we must extend sincere gratitude to Assemblymember Judy Chu who went above and beyond her call to ensure that the commission remains a viable advisory body to the state. The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus also contributed significant resources and support. We also would like to express appreciation to Assemblymembers Wilma Chan, Shirley Horton, Carol Liu, Alan Nakanishi, Alberto Torico, Van Tran, Leland Yee, and Board of Equalization Members John Chiang and Betty Yee for their support.

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Expertise on problem gambling was garnered from our advisors: Alicia de Leon Torres representing the Asian Pacific Islander Constituency Committee for the Department of Alcohol Drug Programs, Dr. Timothy Fong of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, Dr. Ford Kuramoto of National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, and Kent Woo of NICOS Chinese Health Coalition. Alison Harvey of the California Tribal Business Alliance must be recognized for her relationship building and insight.

In-kind and financial supporters were also vast and include: Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality, AGI Capital Group, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association, Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, California Realty and Land, Inc., CAPA Community Education Fund, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, Korean American Coalition, Local 22 Carpenter's Union, the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Organization of Chinese Americans-East Bay Chapter, Pacific Marketing Associates, Polly Ann Diversified, Inc., Service Employees International Union, the Speakers Office of Member Services, TMG, and Urban Bay Properties.

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