

## CAPAC Policy Priorities

### Taskforce Priorities

#### Civil Rights (Chaired by Congressman Bobby Scott)

##### *Oppose Racial and Religious Discrimination*

- Support legislation, such as the *End Racial Profiling Act*, that eliminates law enforcement practices of singling out people for heightened scrutiny, based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.
- Denounce racial and religious discrimination affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including incidents related to post-9/11 backlash.
- Support robust hate crimes and bias-based bullying protections, such as the *Safe Schools Improvement Act*, and strengthen anti-discrimination policies.
- Object to Homeland Security Committee hearings and other legislative efforts that isolate and target one religious or ethnic community, including the American Muslim community, for heightened scrutiny.
- Support the Conyers resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment.
- Support workplace religious freedom legislation and oppose religious discrimination in employment with government funding.
- Support efforts to end faith-based workplace segregation.

##### *Protect Voting Rights*

- Monitor and advocate against voter identification requirement legislation and proof of citizenship bills at the state and federal level as necessary.
- Support efforts to remove barriers to the voting process.

##### *Promote Language Access*

- Support efforts that help prevent discrimination against language minorities and that ensure that language minorities have access to critical governmental services, such as post-disaster relief services.

#### Economic Development (Chaired by Congresswoman Judy Chu)

##### *Promote Access to Capital*

- Identify discrimination in lending by continuing to promote the collection of data on small business borrowers by race, ethnicity, and gender, and evaluating the status of the data collection provision in the Wall Street Reform Act that was successfully pushed for by CAPAC and the CBC.

#### Executive Board

##### Chair

Rep. Judy Chu

##### Vice-Chair

Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo

##### Whip

Rep. Colleen Hanabusa

##### Chair Emeritus

Rep. Michael M. Honda

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka  
Sen. Daniel K. Inouye  
Rep. Xavier Becerra  
Rep. Hansen Clarke  
Rep. Eni Faleomavaega  
Rep. Al Green  
Rep. Mazie Hirono  
Rep. Doris O. Matsui  
Rep. Gregorio Sablan  
Rep. Bobby Scott  
Rep. David Wu

#### Associate Members

Rep. Gerald Connolly  
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.  
Rep. Joseph Crowley  
Rep. Bob Filner  
Rep. Raul M. Grijalva  
Rep. Barbara Lee  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
Rep. Betty McCollum  
Rep. Jerry McNerney  
Rep. Laura Richardson  
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Rep. Janice Schakowsky  
Rep. Jackie Speier  
Rep. Pete Stark  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey

- Ensure that AAPI businesses receive culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach in the newly passed \$30 billion Small Business Lending Fund, which Reps. Carson, Chu, Green, and Honda successfully offered as an amendment to the Fund.
- Develop legislation that will target the minority business community's lending needs.

*Promote Access to Contracting and Procurement*

- Hold federal agencies accountable to their contracting goals; federal agencies missed their small business contracting goals by 2%, and that translated to a loss of \$10 billion for the small business community.
- Utilize findings from responses from over 35 federal agencies that the CAPAC Economic Development Taskforce collected last year to push for better AAPI data collection regarding contracting and procurement.
- Follow up on request for GAO report on challenges to minority contracting and develop plan of action for addressing those challenges that ultimately increase successful bids for federal contracts for AAPI businesses.

*Promote Awareness and Participation in Federal Technical Assistance Programs*

- Promote awareness and participation in federal technical assistance programs by holding federal agencies accountable to AAPI-owned businesses, pushing for AAPI language access, fighting for AAPI outreach, and increasing funds for outreach and education.

*Promote Workforce Diversity for AAPIs in the Public and Private Sectors*

- Address glass ceiling preventing AAPIs from obtaining managerial position in public and private sectors by advocating for promotion of workforce and management diversity with federal agencies and private corporations.
- Contact each government agency mandated to establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI) under the Wall Street Reform Act, evaluate the status and progress of each OMWI, and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Follow up on Comcast's diversity commitments that were successfully secured by CAPAC, in collaboration with the Asian-American Media Coalition and Asian-American Justice Center, and work to improve media diversity overall.

*Advance Concerns of AAPI Immigrant and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers*

- Address the unmet needs and concerns of AAPI rural and urban farming populations.
- Protect poultry growers, many of whom are Hmong, from unfair contracts from poultry integrators.
- Build local food movements that can both generate income for AAPIs and improve health outcomes.

*Support Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act*

- Support reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act that better meets the needs of AAPI workers and families by providing high-quality training for workers that will lead to good jobs available now and the future.

**Education (Chaired by Congressman David Wu)**

*Increase and Improve Research on AAPI Students*

- Increase the reporting of disaggregated student achievement data based on ethnicity so that schools, educators, parents, and other education stakeholders can be informed of the progress of groups that have historically faced challenges, such as individual Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities. In addition, increase the reporting of the school resources being provided to communities that face educational challenges.
- Create and fund programs for the development and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative research on AAPI student achievement and attainment.
- Create and fund programs that increase the number of AAPI researchers in education in order to ensure that AAPI perspectives are included when developing research on education.

*Support Sustainable Funding and Support to the AANAPISI Program*

- Provide increased and sustainable support and funding for the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program to help underserved students overcome barriers to a college degree.
- Support the development of a sustainable entity that would be able to provide support, technical assistance, and outreach to institutions currently designated or interested in being an AANAPISI.
- Ensure that the required thresholds for the AANAPISI Program are reflective of the changing demographics in the U.S.
- Explore combined MSI funding for institutions that enroll higher percentages of more than one minority group. Some institutions that are designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) also have very large proportions of AAPI students that would otherwise meet AANAPISI eligibility.

*Improve Capacity of Educational Institutions to Serve AAPIs*

- Increase the availability of and access to funding for programs that can increase the capacity of schools and school districts to serve AAPI students.
- Ensure that Title III funds reach AAPI students and under Title IV, and give guidance and encourage states to outreach to nontraditional partners.
- Ensure that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) includes funding mechanisms that adequately and fairly address the student populations of the territories and the Freely Associated States (FAS).
- Ensure that there is adequate funding for the implementation of the ESEA.

- Secure an AAPI staff liaison for the community at the Department of Education.

*Improve Assessment of AAPI Students, Especially AAPI English Language Learners (ELLs)*

- Create enforceable and funded policies in Title I and Title VI of ESEA that require schools and districts to use the most appropriate form of assessments as deemed valid and reliable by education experts in measuring ELL student achievement and to provide accommodations for ELL students such as, but not limited to: dictionaries, additional time for tests, and interpreters.
- Provide incentives for states to develop and utilize native language assessments for all diverse ELL students and use population triggers at the district or county level to determine mandated use.
- Mandate and provide funds for states to develop accountability systems that are based on multiple measures.
- Ensure that school accountability systems are designed to bring additional resources to diverse school populations, instead of diverting resources:

*Integrate AAPI Issues throughout Standards of Learning*

- Promote legislation and policies that will encourage states to appropriately integrate AAPI issues throughout the standards of learning in all subject areas and for all grade levels.

*Improve Teacher Preparation and Quality*

- Provide targeted financial and other resources in Title II of the Higher Education Act and Title II of ESEA for pre-service and in-service teacher education and professional development programs so that the linguistic, cultural, and other educational needs of AAPI students can be more adequately addressed.
- Create and fund programs that increase the number of bilingual and bicultural educators and the ability of all educators to teach students with limited English-language proficiency.

*Improve Recruitment and Retention of AAPI Teachers, Administrators, and Staff*

- Create enforceable and funded policies that remove these barriers to the recruitment and retention of AAPIs into the education professions.
- Increase support for recruitment of AAPI teachers under Title II of the Higher Education Act.

*Support Integration in Public Schools, Increased Access to Higher Education, and Dream Act*

- Increase access to higher education for all students by supporting legislation like the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would encourage states to work with public colleges and universities to accurately define undocumented status and would provide a path to legalization for such students.

- Support and fund programs that promote integration and diversity that take into account the diverse needs of AAPI students and community members.
- Increase support for GEAR UP and TRIO, better understanding of AAPI diversity in admissions programs, and dropout prevention programs.
- Increase the availability of subsidized student loans, especially for our most motivated but needy students.

#### *Improve AAPI Parental Involvement Programs*

- Fully enforce the language access and parent engagement provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Title I of No Child Left Behind.
- Create enforceable policies that require schools to implement parental-involvement plans that are culturally compatible and linguistically accessible for all limited English proficient AAPI parents and caregivers.
- Fully fund schools to provide necessary translators and culturally/linguistically competent home-school coordinators who can work with AAPI parents and caregivers.
- Support policies and funding for community-based organizations working in AAPI communities to engage parents and caregivers in local schools.

#### *Improve Delivery of Adult English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Education*

- Create enforceable and funded policies that establish strong standards for quality ESOL education.
- Strengthen the Workforce Investment Act to provide better access to training services, flexible performance measures, and English instruction that meets the needs of adult English language learners.

#### *Increase Availability of Early Childhood Education*

- Provide greater funds to promote free quality public school pre-kindergarten programs and full-day kindergarten programs.

#### *Safe Environments for All Students*

- Strengthen Title IV, Part A, of the ESEA covering “Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities” by requiring schools to take additional steps to prevent, keep records of, and report bullying and harassment, and to educate school staff and students about these issues.
- Enable OCR to initiate more compliance reviews under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.
- Enable OCR regional offices to pursue more discrimination and harassment claims.

#### *Support Struggling Schools*

- Require that at-risk students, including ELL students, are closely monitored and supported to ensure that such students are not illegally discharged or pushed out during turnaround process.
- Ensure that restructuring does not reduce the number of seats available in a particular school and that new schools enroll and serve the student populations of the communities in which these schools are located.

- Conduct thorough studies to measure the lasting effects of school restructuring

### **Healthcare (Chaired by Congresswoman Barbara Lee)**

#### *Organize Successful Tri-Caucus Health Forum*

- Organize successful, well-attended Tri-Caucus Health Forum in Oakland in October/November 2011 and work in active collaboration with AAPI health organizations (e.g. APIAHF and AAPCHO) to assist in forum planning.
- Work to include workshops highlighting various communities within the Asian American, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander groups.

#### *Expand Access to Health Care*

- Track implementation of the Affordable Care Act and ensure that the law successfully expands access to health care for uninsured and underinsured Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.
- Continue efforts to make health coverage truly affordable, by providing comprehensive health and mental health benefits, setting subsidies at appropriate levels for both individuals and families, and capping out-of-pocket costs.
- Update Health Equity and Accountability Act for reintroduction in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Work to address the Medicaid limitations for the Pacific Islander territories.
- Expand Medicaid eligibility to Compacts of Free Association Migrants.
- Ensure access for immigrant families and children in federal health programs and the Health Insurance Exchanges.

#### *Ensure Culturally Competent and Linguistically Appropriate Care*

- Support programs and research on diseases and chronic conditions that disproportionately affect Asians and Pacific Islanders, including diabetes and obesity.
- Support incentives that reward providers for engaging in health care delivery methods that decrease disparities in care among underserved populations.
- Support legislation that bars discrimination in the provision of health care based on primary language.
- Support the creation of a credentialing body and adequate standards by which to judge the quality of health interpreters and translators.

#### *Improve Data Collection and Health Research*

- Improve national data collection by requiring the inclusion of information on race, ethnicity, and primary language spoken based on standards that take into account the diversity of the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations using recommendations from the 2009 Institute of Medicine Report

- Promote diversity among reviewers of health research proposals to ensure that the interests of underserved populations are considered in grant making processes.
- Require ethnic diversity in clinical trials in order to measure the safety and effectiveness of drugs and therapies in a broad range of individuals.
- Fully fund and implement Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act that strengthens data collection by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Fully fund provisions in the Affordable Care Act related to the expansion and creation of Minority Health initiatives within the Department of Health and Human Services.

#### *Prioritize Prevention and Public Health*

- Push for legislation that create a surveillance system to track hepatitis infection, support activities to promote early detection and education (particularly in vulnerable populations), and support research on improved treatments and vaccines.
- Continue to advocate that CDC prioritizes the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis and provides strong leadership and sufficient resources to combat the disease.
- Fund programs that aim to reduce Cancer Disparities at the CDC, while maintaining funding for Cancer research at the NIH.
- Continue funding programs under the Minority AIDS Initiative and ensure resources for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
- Fully fund the REACH program within CDC.
- Maintain funding under the Prevention and Public Health fund that allow communities to develop effective prevention programs.
- Defending the ACA against efforts to reduce women's access to comprehensive reproductive health services
- Fund programs that work to decrease and prevent Cervical Cancer for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

#### **Housing (Chaired by Congressman Al Green)**

##### *Defend Critical Housing and Community Development Programs from Cuts in FY11 and FY12*

- Defend programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, Housing Counseling Programs, Native Hawaiian Block Grant, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), Emergency Mortgage Relief Program, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Refinance Program and Section 202 for senior housing that would disproportionately impact AAPI and low-income people.

##### *Advocate for Reforms in Secondary Mortgage Market*

- Preserve and keep intact access to affordable mortgages for AAPI low and moderate-income borrowers.

- Encourage collaborations with AAPI community organizations to make affordable mortgages available to people who have participated in homeownership counseling.
- Support practicable and reasonable government sponsored enterprise (GSE) reform that maintains access for low to middle-income AAPI qualified borrowers who can sustain homeownership.
- Ensure that down payment requirements and credit score criteria do not unfairly leave behind low to middle-income AAPI borrowers that could sustainably own homes
- Maintain access to the 30-year fixed rate mortgages to all AAPI borrowers which provides certainty and stability resulting in a lower default rate.

*Support Community and Economic Development Programs*

- Support programs that strengthen access to services, job opportunities, and capital; these programs include Community Services Block Grants.
- Increase participation of AAPI and immigrant communities in Community Development Financial Institutions Fund Programs, reauthorize the New Markets Tax Credit, and reauthorize the Assets for Independence Act.

*Expand and Preserve Supply of Affordable Rental Housing*

- Provide measures to make Section 8 vouchers more workable for preservation projects and for non-profits to use in low-income housing developments.
- Revise the formula for Low Income Housing Tax Credits to factor in indicators of state housing needs.
- Fund the National Housing Trust Fund.

*Eliminate Abusive and Fraudulent Lending Practices*

- Continue to build on the Wall Street Reform Act and work to address abusive and fraudulent lending practices through strong consumer protection regulations.

*Expand Access to Financial Services and Financial Education*

- Defend legislation that strengthens and expands the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to bring investments for education, homeownership, and entrepreneurship, and continued focus on affordable housing and community economic development investments in low-income APA neighborhoods.
- Continue support and funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Preparation programs.

*Strongly Support Increasing Native Hawaiian Homeownership*

- Protect and increase funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program.
- Expand financial literacy and homeownership assistance to Native Hawaiians throughout the state of Hawaii.
- Restore the maximum loan-to-value ratio for FHA 247 mortgage refinance and equity transactions to 95 percent – the level that is currently available

nationally. The lower lending limit of 75 percent reduces access to home equity for Native Hawaiian families.

*Promote Affordable Homeownership Opportunities*

- Support housing counseling organizations that provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services.
- Reform Federal Housing Administration to provide mortgage options that reach more AAPI borrowers.
- Support tax credits to subsidize the development and rehabilitation of affordable units for low- and moderate-income families for purchase.

*Improve Data Collection and Disaggregation*

- Improve data collection and disaggregation on the housing and community development needs of AAPI communities in HUD programs.
- Require that disaggregated lending data be collected under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) to document discriminatory lending practices faced by AAPI subgroups.

**Immigration (Chaired by Congressman Mike Honda)**

*Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform*

- Ensure that our longstanding tradition of family-based immigration is sustained, reunite families by reducing the backlog in the family immigration system, provide adequate numbers of family-based visas per year, update family preference categories, adjust per country limits, and remove bars to reentry and adjustment of status.
- Provide discretionary authority to immigration judges to determine that an alien parent of a U.S. citizen child should not be ordered removed from the U.S., and restore states' rights to offer in-state tuition to immigrant students residing in their state.
- Provide legal status and a path to permanent residence for undocumented immigrants who work hard, pay taxes, undergo criminal and national security checks, and learn English and civics, and provide legal channels for immigrants, who wish to contribute to the American economy, to enter the U.S.
- Ensure that fees charged for citizenship applications are affordable for those who are low income and that fee waivers are generously applied.
- Ensure that naturalization tests are fair, and ensure adequate immigrant integration resources for community based organizations who provide direct services such as English, civics, and naturalization courses, to individuals.
- Oppose any proposal that promotes border security and interior enforcement-only approaches.
- Support provisions that allow workers on H-1B visas greater ability to change employers, jobs, or positions without losing their immigration status and provide a longer grace period against laid-off H-1B workers to find replacement jobs or make arrangements prior to leaving.
- Support the strengthening of U.S. refugee resettlement programs.

*Support Family Reunification for Filipino WWII Veterans*

- Supports legislation that would exempt the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from quotas on family immigration visas, allowing aging Filipino veterans living in the U.S. to be reunited expeditiously with their families.

*Restore Due Process for Immigrants*

- Support legislation that provides due process protections to immigrants; eliminates retroactive provisions of deportation laws; restore prosecutorial discretion, proportionality, and judicial review to our immigration system; and protect civil liberties by eliminating mandatory and indefinite detention of immigrants.

*Promote Access to Citizenship*

- Ensure that all eligible legal immigrants have fair and equal access to the citizenship process. Ensure that the naturalization process remain fair and accessible.

*Promote Integration of AAPI Immigrants*

- Promote integration of AAPI immigrants by supporting English language acquisition, civic, voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts and basic education programs.

*Oppose Birthright Citizenship Proposals*

- Oppose any birthright citizenship proposals and other legislative efforts that would restrict rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

*Oppose Mandatory, Nationwide E-Verify*

- Oppose any mandatory, nationwide implementation of e-verify without resolving serious privacy, civil liberties, budgetary, and technological flaws.

*Oppose federal programs that authorize state and local police to enforce federal immigration laws*

- Oppose expansion of programs, such as the 287(g) program, Criminal Alien Program, and Secure Communities, that increase collaboration between federal immigration authorities and local law enforcement agencies

*Support Administrative Relief for Parents of U.S. Citizen Children, Parents of DREAM students, and DREAM students*

- Urge President Obama to provide for humanitarian parole for parents of US citizen children, parents of DREAMers, and DREAM students, and urge deferred action for those not appropriate for parole support.
- Redefine 3 and 10 year bar waivers through Administrative guidance.

*Support SSI for Elderly and Disabled Refugees*

- Support a long-term legislative solution to ensure that elderly and disabled refugees are not automatically cut off of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) after seven years if they face barriers to naturalization.

## **Additional Priorities**

### **CAPAC Summit**

#### *Organize Successful 2011 CAPAC Summit*

- Organize successful, well-attended 2011 CAPAC Summit with active participation from Caucus members, community leaders, and other important AAPI policy stakeholders that help move CAPAC's agenda forward.

### **American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands**

#### *Support Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act*

- Support bill to recognize the suffering and loyalty of the people of Guam during its occupation by the Japanese during World War II.

#### *Support Equitable Treatment to the Territories*

- Support bill, H.R. 986, to provide for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to be treated as states for certain criminal justice programs.
- Support bill, H.R. 1020, to amend the Energy Policy Act to include American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands in certain efforts to reduce diesel emissions.
- Support legislation to provide for the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to be treated as States under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program.
- Support legislation to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to support bill to permit the establishment of Jobs Corps centers in the territories.
- Support equitable distribution of nutrition programs and assistance to small agricultural producers.

#### *Support for Assistance to the Territories under the President's Budget*

- Support to restore the \$1.1 million cut in funding to the Office of Insular Affairs in the FY2012 President's Budget.

### **Census 2020**

#### *Promote AAPI Census Count*

- Follow up on request to direct Census Bureau look into the possibility of creating Language Access Guides, similar to those provided for the 2010 Census for AAPI languages for the American Community Survey.
- Follow up on request to direct Census Bureau provide updates on its language assistance program and provide information on their language outreach plans for ethnic minorities.

- Meet with Race and Ethnic Advisory (REAC) Committee Chairs to outline plan for improving the AAPI count in Census 2020.
- Support the expansion of the American Community Survey to the territories.
- Meet with Census Director Robert Groves about the resources necessary to improve the count for AAPIs in Census 2020.

*Support adequate funding for the Census Bureau*

- Advocate for adequate funding for the Census Bureau during budget and appropriations processes.
- Oppose attempts to cut funding from the Census Bureau during budget and appropriations processes.

**Chinese Exclusion Act**

*Seek Apology for Chinese Exclusion Act*

- Seek formal government apology for Chinese Exclusion Act and other discriminatory laws that restricted the immigration of Chinese and Asian people to the United States.

**Native Hawaiian Federal Recognition**

*Promote Federal Recognition for Native Hawaiians*

- Support legislation that provides Native Hawaiians the same right of self-governance and self-determination that are afforded to other indigenous peoples and provides a structured process to address the longstanding issues resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

**Veterans**

*Support National Cemetery Burial Bill*

- Support bill to recognize all who served for the Kingdom of Laos under the Royal Lao Armed Forces, during the Secret War in Laos and the Vietnam War.

*Honor U.S.-Allied Southeast Asian Veterans*

- Honor Southeast Asian veterans who sacrificed to defend democracy as allies with the U.S. and work to secure VA benefits for veterans who fought alongside U.S. forces during the Vietnam War era in Southeast Asia.

*Support the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210)*

- Support bill that would deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This legislation eliminates the distinction between the Regular or "Old" Philippine Scouts and the other three groups of veterans—Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, Recognized Guerrilla Forces, and New

Philippine Scouts. Veterans that have received lump sum payments will be eligible for these benefits. Widows and children of Filipino veterans will be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation just like any other veteran.

###

*The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Currently Chaired by Congresswoman Judy Chu, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life since it was founded in 1994.*

