



The Office of Compliance Celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month



The Office of Compliance celebrates the 20th anniversary of Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month and honors the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) was founded in May of 1994 by Representative Norman Mineta to ensure Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) participation in the legislative process and that AAPI concerns are being addressed. CAPAC is a bipartisan caucus composed of 41 members of the House and Sen-

ate. Representative Mineta was also the first Chair of CAPAC and was followed by Representatives Patsy Mink of Hawaii, Robert Underwood of Guam, David Wu of Oregon, and Mike Honda of California. Representative Judy Chu of California currently chairs CAPAC. CAPAC consists not only of members of AAPI descent, but also members who are dedicated to advancing the interests of the AAPI community. Current members include Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, Representative Barbara Lee of California, and Representative Al Green of Texas.

Currently, CAPAC is working on the passage of H.Res.621 which recognizes the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Nation's history. CAPAC advances AAPI interests, but these interests often overlap with the interests of other racial and ethnic groups. For the 112th Congress, CAPAC is taking on initiatives in fields of education, housing, and civil rights.

Many members of CAPAC have been instrumental in advancing workplace rights in the Legislative Branch. Representative Bob Filner of California was involved in the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act and members like Representative Zoe Lofgren of California cosponsored bills such as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would allow the Office of Compliance the ability to advance workplace rights in the Congressional workplace.

The Office of Compliance joins the country in celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and acknowledges the contributions of the AAPI community to this nation and the Congressional workplace.