

KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
san mateo chapter Japanese American citizens league apr 2010
www.sanmateojacl.org
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San Mateo JACL is dedicated to promoting the historical and cultural understanding of the Japanese American experience and to protecting and advancing the human and civil rights of our multi-ethnic society through educational and community programs.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

THEME FOR APRIL KOKORO: FOCUS ON CENSUS 2010

The Census determines funding for local communities over the next ten years. If one person is missed, his or her region will lose \$1300 (due that person not being counted) over 10 years, when the next census will occur. **It is urgent that community members get involved . . .** because we know our communities best and, due to the economic crisis, state and local governments will not be doing as much outreach. For example, California spent \$25 million in the 2000 Census and will spend only \$2 million for 2010!!



San Mateo JACL President Steve Okamoto does his part for Census Education!



Board Members Tamii Horn, Kate Motoyama, and Diana Okamoto at a Census Education's Refreshment Table, Millbrae event, in March

PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATES GOODWIN H. LIU TO
U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

WASHINGTON - The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, is pleased with President Barack Obama's nomination of University of California Berkeley School of Law Associate Dean and Professor Goodwin H. Liu's nomination to serve on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The son of immigrants from Taiwan, Professor Liu is an American success story. He was born in Augusta, Georgia, and grew up in Clewiston, Florida and Sacramento, California. He attended Stanford University, Oxford University, and Yale Law School, graduating with distinction. As a prominent constitutional scholar and education law expert, he has had a distinguished career, including clerkships on the D.C. Circuit and the United States Supreme Court, appellate practice at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, and public service in the U.S. Department of Education. "Professor Liu is a superb nominee to the Ninth Circuit," said Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL. "There are currently no Asian Pacific Americans serving on the appellate level, and Professor Liu's excellent record as a former Supreme Court law clerk, public servant, and respected scholar will surely bring superior judgment and fairness to the Ninth Circuit."

Professor Liu's appointment to the Ninth Circuit is particularly significant for the Asian Pacific American community. If confirmed, he will only be the fifth Asian Pacific

American federal appellate court judge in the history of the United States. He is the second Asian Pacific American nominated by President Obama to serve on the United States Court of Appeals, along with Denny Chin, nominee for the Second Circuit. Professor Liu's nomination enjoys broad bipartisan support, including former Republican Congressman Tom Campbell and Clint Bollick.

LANDMARK HEALTH CARE BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

The JACL applauds the House of Representatives and the White House Administration for passing the Senate version of the health care bill along with the reconciliation bill late Sunday night. The President signed the Health Insurance Reform Bill that will allow the U.S Senate to take up the bill and offer their amendments to finalize the whole package. As 32 million more Americans will be covered, the bill will also reduce the federal deficit by \$130 billion over the next ten years.

Besides the main areas of reform such as eliminating discrimination against pre-existing conditions, closing the Medicare Part-D Drug coverage donut hole, allowing youth to be covered by their parents until their 26th birthday, and more preventative care measures, the following are measures in the bill that are particularly important to the Asian American Pacific Islander Community (AAPI):

INCREASED DATA COLLECTION - As an undercounted and underserved population, it is critical to have more research and data collected on the AAPI community.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTICAL TRAINING FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS - Having more culturally and linguistically competent health care professionals will help to provide more quality and efficient care to the AAPI community, especially when one of the biggest barriers for certain AAPI groups includes linguistic capabilities.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS - Community health centers are important because they are culturally and linguistically sensitive, and can provide a great support system to the AAPI community.

MORE TAX CREDITS AND EXPANSION OF MEDICAID TO 133% FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL) - With almost three-quarters of Asian Americans surveyed in the 2009 Current Population Survey having personal incomes under 400% of FPL, the expansion of Medicaid will tremendously help with health care affordability. Tax credits are not only for individuals and families, but also for small businesses which is a huge aspect of the AAPI community. According to the 2002 Economic Census, there were 1.1 million Asian American-owned businesses, generating more than \$326 billion in revenue.

INCREASED MEDICAID AND FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE (FMAP) FOR U.S TERRITORIES - Medicaid is known to be a vital source of health care for low-income

families, and the expansion of the program would greatly assist the U.S Territories since nearly one in four Southeast Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders live in poverty.

Although the JACL commends the above measures, it is disappointing that the 5-year waiting period for legal immigrants to receive any Medicaid assistance was not lifted. In addition, the insurance Exchange will have discriminatory and burdensome citizenship verification processes for immigrants which will prevent access to health care. These measures create barriers and make it difficult for some of the AAPI community to be able to afford and have access to health care.



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