

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Michael Honda (D-CA), chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), hosts a meeting today with Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to address ethnic and racial health disparities in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. At the meeting, CAPAC members will address healthcare disparities, the need for disaggregated data about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, language access throughout HHS agencies, and access to services for immigrants.

Tomorrow, CAPAC members meet with Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the Census Bureau to ensure a fair and accurate account of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the upcoming 2010 census. These CAPAC meetings are two in a series of summits between CAPAC and high ranking officials in the Obama Administration. Recently, CAPAC also met with Secretary Gary Locke, from the Department of Commerce, Secretary Steven Chu from the Department of Energy, and Secretary Arne Duncan from the Department of Education.

Rep. Honda: “I look forward to meeting with Secretary Sebelius and Director Groves to address healthcare disparities in our communities and ensure an accurate census count in 2010. The great cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity in our communities is a strength, but also poses to federal agencies particular challenges that are invisible and left unaddressed. I am proud to work with President Obama and his Administration to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to government services. The President and his diverse administration have a nuanced understanding of the needs of all of America’s communities.”

Rep. Bordallo, chair of CAPAC’s Healthcare Task Force: “I thank Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for joining CAPAC’s meeting to brief the caucus on the healthcare initiatives of the Obama Administration. During this meeting, I hope to express the caucus’ priorities for healthcare reform for the Asian American Pacific Islander & Native Hawaiian communities. Specifically, I would like to highlight the needs for Guam and the other U.S. territories in federal health programs. As the CAPAC Health Task Force Chair, I look forward to working with Secretary Sebelius and my colleagues in Congress on these issues important to our community.”

Rep. Judy Chu, chair of CAPAC's Economic Development Task Force: "I am so pleased Chairman Honda has organized meetings with Dr. Robert Groves, Census Director and the Racial and Ethnic Advisory Committee (REAC) Chairs. The Census is of vital importance to the Asian American community and the meetings underscore their importance. However, California and specifically Los Angeles remains the number one hard to count population in the country. An undercount in Los Angeles would be a tremendous loss of resources for my district and would hurt my constituents. I am at these meetings, rolling up my sleeves so that CAPAC and the Census can figure out how to get the most complete and accurate count."

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The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is a bicameral and bipartisan caucus 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. Founded in 1994 by then Congressman Norman Mineta, and currently chaired by Congressman Michael Honda, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac> .