

Washington, DC - Today, members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) joined community health advocates around the country in recognizing December 1<sup>st</sup> as World AIDS Day — a day dedicated to ending HIV prejudice and stopping the spread of HIV by raising awareness about this growing epidemic. US Rep. Mike Honda, chair of CAPAC, issued the following statement:

“HIV/AIDS has no regard for race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or age, and must be priority for all Americans, including those in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. In the AAPI community, as in other communities, a stigma surrounding the epidemic promotes fears and misconceptions about HIV transmission.

“Each year, in the United States, approximately 56,000 people become infected, more than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, and nearly 600,000 Americans die as a result. One in three AAPIs are living with HIV and do not know it. The number of AAPIs who get tested for HIV are disturbingly low. Over two-thirds of Asians and over half of Pacific Islanders have never been tested despite the fact that infection rate is highest among AAPIs compared to any other racial and ethnic group. While these statistics illustrate the need for greater access to information about HIV/AIDS and to services in the AAPI community, there continues to be a lack of data and research that show the full impact of HIV/AIDS in the AAPI community.

“As our nation addresses this dire crisis, CAPAC will continue to work with health advocates and researchers to bring awareness and resources for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and research so that we may one day eradicate this deadly and preventable disease.”

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*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. Since 1994, 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>.*