



March 16, 2013

Dear Community Leader:

California's fastest growing racial groups, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are not only extraordinarily diverse, they have considerable needs that must be addressed by policy makers, according to a recent report released by the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice. Using the latest data from federal, state and local agencies, *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in California, 2013*, provides data on over 30 Asian Pacific Islander (API) ethnic groups, counters perceptions of these groups as universally successful, and indicates there is work to be done in the areas of health, education and workforce development.

You are invited to participate in a community forum:

SPEAK UP:

A Dialogue on the Status of Asian Pacific Islanders in Fresno & Madera Counties

Saturday, May 11, 2013

10 am to noon

Willow International Community College Center

10309 N. Willow Ave

Building AC2 - Library

You are invited to participate in this event because you are a recognized leader in the community and we welcome your input. A diverse panel of speakers will present data from the report relevant to APIs in Fresno and Madera Counties, then we ask that you participate in a focus group to identify what your organization is doing – or planning to do – to address the needs of APIs in the areas of Health, Education and/or Workforce Development. We are hopeful and enthusiastic about starting and continuing these conversations about our local communities in the context of this groundbreaking data. We expect these conversations to be a collaborative dialogue where working together we can identify and develop recommendations to achieve positive outcomes.

These focus groups will then create policy recommendations that will be presented to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs to improve services in Fresno and Madera County to these at-risk groups. Too often our API communities in this region are left out of the state conversation. This is your opportunity to impact that situation and speak up on behalf of these communities.

This event is being held in May in recognition of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month and is sponsored by Central California Asian Pacific Women (CCAPW), Willow International Community College Center, and Blong Xiong, President of the Fresno City Council and President of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

Visit the following link to download the full, 90-page report: <http://apalc.org/media-center/publications/community-contrasts-asian-americans-native-hawaiians-and-pacific-islande-0>

We hope you will join us for this important dialogue. Please RSVP by May 1, 2013, to ccapwinfo@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Gena Lew Gong, President
Central California
Asian Pacific Women



Deborah J. Ikeda, President
Willow International
Community College Center



Blong Xiong, President
Fresno City Council,
CA Commission on
API American Affairs