Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OCAPIA
2015–17 Report to the Governor and Legislature

SUMMARY
Advocacy

The Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) gives underrepresented populations within the Asian and Pacific Islander communities statewide a voice in policymaking. We maintain an independent voice within state government, collaborating with the Governor, legislators and community partners on key equity issues and lifting lesser known but important policy areas into prominence with our advocacy.

OCAPIA’s top policy priorities are Justice, Education and Health

Biggest successes: Passage of 2016’s HB 4128 on Immigration Fraud. OCAPIA Commissioner, Chanpome Sinlapasai, served as a key member of the legislative taskforce that developed the recommendations for House Bill HB 4128 that passed in the 2016 legislature. The bill adds important penalties for fraud by immigration consultants.

Establishment of commemorative days: Minoru Yasui Day, and the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 (incarceration of Japanese-Americans)

Emerging area of policy interest: inclusive social studies and ethnic studies. OCAPIA has long advocated for k-12 educational curriculum that includes the cultural histories of Oregon’s diverse communities.
Public Policy Research

*OCAPIA provides Masters, PhD, and Law students with for-credit public policy internships addressing our strategic priorities. The research is conducted jointly with state partners, and the Governor’s Office to study data, best practices, effective policies, literature review, analyze gaps, suggest remedies and produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, develop strategic approaches and craft bills that improve the success of Asian Pacific Islanders statewide.*

**2016-17 Policy research project**

**Integrating immigrant’s professional credentials into the Oregon workforce: Research on immigrant re-credentialing:**

Identifying best practices and making policy recommendations that will help immigrants with internationally earned degrees and credentials have an efficient path to equivalent credentials in Oregon. **Partners:** OCAPIA/Partners in Diversity/Oregon Workforce Investment Board/Governor’s Office/OCBA

**Leadership**

**Growing leadership for Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians**

*The OCAPIA works to grow the number and influence of Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians within all branches of state government.*

- In 2017, based on OCAPIA’s nomination of her, Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura was selected as one of two OCFW Women of Achievement, honored by the Governor and acknowledged before the Senate for her work in civil rights.

- In 2016, OCAPIA established a named leadership scholarship for leadership training for API’s statewide. Named for Peggy Nagae and Jaime Lim, the scholarships are open to emerging leaders and youth in the API community to attend conferences and training that increase their leadership skills.

**Partnerships**

**2015-16 Joint Legislative Days with APANO**

The OCAPIA joined its community partner APANO for a joint Legislative Day at the Capitol in 2015 and 2016. OCAPIA Commissioners joined the other attendees including API community and faith leaders, college students, parents and their children from around the state. The large group of participants gathered in in the Capitol to be welcomed with presentations from legislators and other leaders.

**2016-17 Policy Research Partnerships**

As part of its policy research work on immigrant re-credentialing, OCAPIA led a coalition of Partners in Diversity, Oregon Workforce Investment Board, the Governor’s Office on Workforce, and the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs.
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The mission of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) is to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equality for Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Principles and Values

- Equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians in jobs and the economy, education, health, safety, family stability, environment, and civic engagement.
- Equal treatment and protection against discrimination.
- Access to helpful information on services and available resources.
- Working in partnership on research and policy analysis of longstanding issues and barriers to success within the API community statewide.
- Inclusion of Asian and Pacific Islanders’ viewpoints in policy making at the state level.
- Celebration of and education about the contributions and achievements of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon.

Goals and Activities

- Advocate for equitable policies assuring the success of Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians at the state level.
- Engage community and state partners to promote equity for Asian and Pacific Islanders across Oregon.
- Study and analyze issues affecting the Asian and Pacific Islander community statewide and recommend policy remedies to state policy makers.
- Grow and develop leaders among Asian and Pacific Islanders at the state level in all branches.
- Increase the viability and visibility of the contributions and achievements of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon.

OCAPIA Commissioners

Hussein Al-Baiaty*  
Hillsboro

Susan Soonkeum Cox*  
Eugene

Ping Khaw*  
Lake Oswego

Bennie Moses-Mesubed*  
La Grande

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura*  
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Stephen Ying*--Past Chair  
Portland

Senator Michael Dembrow*  
Portland

Representative Carla Pliuslo*  
Gresham

Representative Gene Whisnant  
Sunriver

* current commissioner

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Phone: 503.302.9725
Email: OACO.mail@oregon.gov
www.oregon.gov/OCAPIA
Office: 421 SW Oak St, Suite 770, Portland, Oregon 97204

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