

COMMUNITY UPDATE:

Funding for the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions Program (AANAPISI)

On September 17, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3221, the *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act*, with a vote of 253 to 171, which will now go to the Senate for consideration.

H.R. 3221 directly supports students in many significant ways, and includes \$5 million per year for the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program for fiscal years 2010 through 2019.

The AANAPISI Program provides grants to eligible colleges and universities that serve large numbers of low-income students and large numbers of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. These grants could be used to help schools improve and expand their services, including:

- Curriculum development and academic instruction, including instruction in disciplines in which AAPIs are underrepresented;
- Student support services such as tutoring and counseling;
- Research and data collection for AAPI populations and subpopulations;
- Purchase of educational materials such as scientific or laboratory equipment and library books;
- Renovation and improvement of instructional facilities;
- Establishment of partnerships with community-based organizations serving AAPIs; and
- Outreach programs to K-12 students to pursue higher education.

What You Can Do Now:

Urge senators in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee to prioritize and support legislation similar to the *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009* and to ensure the \$5 million a year for the AANAPISI program.

The Senate HELP Committee consists of senators representing the following states: AK, AZ, CO, CT, IA, KS, MN, NH, NM, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, UT, VT, WA, WY.

If you live in any of these states, your action is particularly needed!

For more information on how to contact your Senators and the effort to urge the Senate HELP Committee to prioritize education or the AANAPISI Program, please contact Monica Thammarath at monica@searac.org or 202.667.4690.

Founded in 1996, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) is a coalition of 27 Asian Pacific American organizations around the country. Based in Washington, DC, NCAPA serves to represent the interests of the greater AAPI community and to provide a national voice for AAPI issues. NCAPA would like to thank Congressman Wu (OR-1) and the leadership of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus under Congressman Honda (CA-15) for their long-standing support of the new serving institution program.