

*Email to Lisa
tomorrow Noon.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE
FROM: IRENE BUENO
RE: MEETING ON WITH REPRESENTATIVE UNDERWOOD, CHAIRMAN
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC CAUCUS – Wednesday,
September 20, 2000 at 3:30 pm in 2418 Rayburn House Office Building

PURPOSE: You are meeting with Delegate Underwood in preparation for the President's meeting with Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus (CAPC) on October 6, 2000.

BACKGROUND: As you may recall, this meeting was previously scheduled for September 15 but was postponed. The Caucus will want to thank the President for a number of Clinton Administration initiatives and discuss the following issues. Attached is background from the Caucus on these issues.

EW Marshall

1. Los Alamos Espionage Case/Racial Profiling of Asian Pacific Americans

Background: The espionage case at Los Alamos has raised concerns regarding discrimination and negative stereotyping of Asian Pacific Americans at the National Laboratories and among the general population. As a result of the plea agreement in which Dr. Lee pled guilty to one count (out of an original 59) and was sentenced to time-served, the APA community is convinced more than ever that the Dr. Lee was targeted because of his race. Many in the APA Community are calling for an investigation of the way the case was handled and some are even calling for a pardon. I understand that Rep. Mink is organizing a hearing on the Wen Ho Lee case, but it is unclear at this point whether it will be an "APA Caucus" hearing.

There is also continues to be concern about the broader issue of racial profiling of Asian Pacific Americans in the government. Secretary Richardson has taken aggressive measures in addressing this issue and assuring that the Asian Pacific American scientist at the labs are not facing a hostile work environment. He established a Task Force on Racial Profiling which included Department of Energy staff (including Asian American staff) U.S. Commissioner on Civil Rights Yvonne Lee. After a series of meetings with lab employees and APA community members the Task Force made a series of recommendations which were adopted by Secretary Richardson, including the hiring of an ombudsman to work with the Asian American lab scientist on individual cases and improving the general work environment. The issue of racial profiling and discrimination of Asian Pacific American federal employees and contractors is also being examined by the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific and likely to be addressed in their recommendations to the Presidents. Their interim report is due in November and final report next June.

Talking Points:

- As the President indicated last week, he and the White House has serious concerns regarding the case of Dr. Lee – specifically why the Justice Department would oppose bail one week and make an agreement the next week which basically sets him free. In accordance with the plea agreement, discussion still needs to take place between Dr. Lee and the Prosecutors on the information that was downloaded. The White House is closely monitoring this case.
- (if asked) No decision has been made as of yet to pursue any kind of investigation. Your thoughts on this are important and will be considered.

2. Funding for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Background: This Initiative was established by Executive Order on June 7, 1999 to improve the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through increased participation in federal programs. The Initiative includes a 15-member Advisory Commission which was appointed on May 4, 2000, and a federal Interagency Working Group which will develop 3-year plans for each agency to improve access to federal programs for Asian Pacific Americans, improve research and data collection, and other initiatives to address the needs of this community. This initiative is housed in HHS. The Members are likely to raise concern about the funding for this initiative. This initiative does not have a line item in the budget and HHS has had difficulty in FY2000 in finding the funding for this initiative. Members would like to specifically include \$3 million in the HHS appropriations dedicated to the White House Initiative on AAPI's. They will ask for the Administration's support even though this was not in our budget.

Talking Points:

- The Administration supports continued funding for the White House Initiative, however, there is not a separate line item in the budget for its funding. Other similar initiatives are not funded with a separate line item.
- We would commit to work with HHS to continue funding the Initiative in the context of their overall budget.

3. Funding for Filipino Veterans Benefits.

Background: As you are well aware, Representative Filner and members of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus have been pushing the Administration to support efforts to provide funding for Filipino veterans benefits. The Administration supports funding for these benefits provided the Administration's VA budget request have been met. We met with Veterans groups who have sent a letter to Congress that supports Filipino Veterans. Finally, on July 27, 2000, the President directed the VA, DOD and State Department to conduct a study on providing these benefits, which is due October 31, 2000.

\$30 million
Cash Benefits (SSA)
Report - get status

50 million

Talking Points: The Administration supports funding for these benefits provided the Administration's VA budget request have been met.

• VA report

4. Legislation on U.S. policy regarding the U.S. relationship with Native Hawaiians.

Background: The CAPC is seeking to enact legislation sponsored by Senators Akaka and Inouye and Representative Abercrombie to federally-recognize Native Hawaiians. In August, the Departments of Interior and Justice issued a report on Native Hawaiians and indicated support for this legislation. Interior and Justice have testified in support of this legislation both at field hearings in Hawaii at the end of August and last week here before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Last Thursday, the bill was reported out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Today, there is a markup in the House Resources Committee, and it is expected to pass out of this Committee as well. Senators Inouye and Akaka are pressing hard to get this passed this year because of the urgency created by the Rice case. *Need an update on Senate side.*

SAP?

Talking Points: We support this legislation.

5. Guam War Claims Review Commission

Background: Representative Underwood introduced H.R. 755 that would establish a commission to recommend further compensation to Guamanians who suffered during the occupation of Guam by Japan during World War II. OMB had reservations regarding the legislation -- and its precedent for other WWII claims -- but it passed the House without having all of the concerns addressed since the Interior Department failed to communicate the concerns. A unified Administration position has now been worked out and Underwood has agreed to the changes to the bill it proposes. We will support the legislation if amended. A letter to the Senate committee has just been cleared and should be sent shortly. *sub* (See attached unsigned letter).

Talking Points: We support this legislation with the amendments we have agreed to.

6. Health Care Relief for Territories.

Background: The delegates to Congress and governors from all the territories are pressing for the elimination of the caps on Medicaid in the islands. The caps, which are adjusted annually, provide even less than the otherwise authorized 50 percent Federal share of costs in the territories based. Congressmen Underwood and Romero-Barcelo are also pressing for Medicaid to pay Medicare Part B premiums, co-payments, and deductibles for the needy in the territories as it does in the States. Romero and others have introduced several bills but none of them are moving in Congress.

OMB has agreed to exempting our proposal to insure parents of CHIP children from the caps but has not agreed for our proposals to expand insurance for workers in between jobs, 55-65 year olds, 19-20s, and legal immigrants. We got the caps increased in the balanced budget agreement \$33 million a year, indexed for inflation, with \$1 million of this for Guam. But we didn't get the caps further increased \$11 million a year for four years, with \$.3 million increases for Guam and OMB has not wanted to renew the proposal.

Talking Points:

- In 1997, the Administration proposed a five-year plan for increasing the Medicaid caps. We got the first year increase but Congress refused to agree to the smaller increases for each of the next four years.
- At the same time, it provided a sixth of what we proposed in creating the Children's Health Insurance Program. Increasing that became our territories priority. It took two years, but we got the territories CHIP cap more than quadrupled.
- We've agreed to increase the Medicaid cap in Administration's proposal to insure parents of CHIP children. We'll continue to see what can be done in other Medicaid enhancement proposals.
- And, as the President indicated yesterday, we'll see what can be done in budget legislation this year.

Caplan
for Jeff
Jeff

ATTENDEES:

You
Representative Robert Underwood (D-GU)
Ester Kiaain, COS
Kay Casstevens
Laura Eford
Jeff Farrow
Edwin Park, NEC (Jeanne Lambrew's designee)

Underwood
Pelosi
Filner
Stubb - Mink, Akaka, Inouye,

Honorable Frank Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Administration regarding the bill for the review of World War II claims awards to the residents of Guam, H.R. 755, as passed by the House of Representatives. The Administration believes that such a review should be conducted. It also supports the approach and essential elements of bill, which would create a commission to evaluate the awards as compared to those received by other United States citizens and nationals in territories occupied by Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II. However, the Administration believes the bill needs to be further amended as follows:

- (1) in section 3 strike "subchapter II" and insert in lieu thereof "subchapter III".

Rationale: This is a technical correction to identify the correct subchapter.

- (2) in item (4) of section 5, strike all after the word "Act", and insert in lieu thereof the following language:

as compared with awards to other similarly affected United States citizens and nationals in territory occupied by the Imperial Japanese military forces during the World War II period;

Rationale: This legislative language would provide a more direct comparison of circumstances and suffering of similarly affected individuals.

- (3) strike the language in item (5) of section 5, and insert in lieu thereof the following new language:

advise on any additional amounts of compensation that may be necessary, and

Rationale: This legislative language would clarify that the commission will consider the need for additional compensation over and above awards already paid.

- (4) add to section 7 the following provisions:

This Commission is authorized to procure temporary and intermittent services of

experts and consultants as are necessary to the extent authorized by section 3109, of title 5 of the United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the rate specified at the time of such service for GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332(a) of such title. Experts and consultants may be employed without compensation if they agree to do so, in writing, in advance.

Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may provide support to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act.

In carrying out its duties under this Act, the Commission is authorized to hold such hearings and take testimony with respect to matters to which it has a responsibility under this Act. The person chairing the hearing may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission.

Rationale: These recommendations are designed to facilitate the conduct of the business of the Commission.

The Administration requests that the amendments recommended above be made. It looks forward to the enactment of such a bill this year.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to sending this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

S. 2045 - American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000
(Hatch (R) UT and __ cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes S. 2045, the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000. The Administration stands ready to support a reasonable increase in the number of H-1B visas if it reflects a balanced approach that protects and prepares the U.S. workforce. S. 2045 fails to reflect this critical balance.

Specifically, this approach must include:

- provisions that effectively target additional visas to individuals at the highest skill levels—e.g. in 2001, 40% targeted to workers with a master's degree or higher; and,
- an increase in the current H-1B fee to \$2,000 for most employers and \$3,000 for H-1B dependent employers to provide more funding for job training (50%), education (30%), and increased resources for speeding up application processing, reducing backlogs, and improving employer-based immigration programs (20%).

In addition, Congress needs to enact the provisions of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act to update the registry date, amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), and reinstate Sec. 245(i). These provisions would allow people who have been living in the United States for many years and developed strong ties to their communities the opportunity to normalize their immigration status, and allow families to stay together while an adjustment of status application is pending.

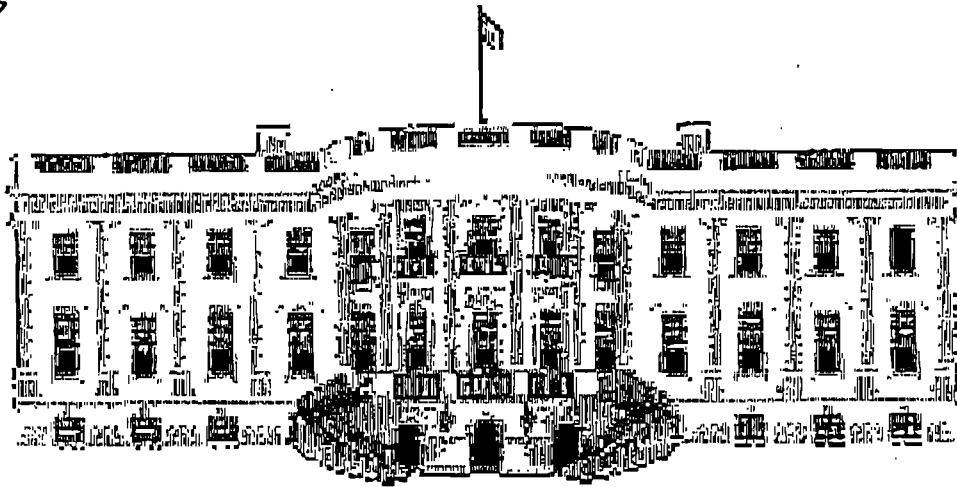
The Administration is committed to policies that strengthen the global competitiveness of our businesses while creating opportunities for our workers. The Administration has a strong record of taking responsible steps to work with the business community to meet this need while protecting and promoting the interests of U.S. workers, and preparing the U.S. workforce to meet the labor needs of the 21st century.

The Administration continues to believe that the first and primary policy for increasing the availability of high-skilled workers must be focused on increasing the education and training of U.S. workers. The Administration recognizes, however, that U.S. businesses sometimes need access to the international labor market to maintain and enhance our global competitiveness, particularly in high-growth new technology industries and particularly in tight labor markets.

Congress should enact legislation this year to increase H-1B visas, protect and invest in our workers, and provide fairness and equity in our immigration system.

* * * * *

THE WHITE HOUSE



OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

Laura Efurd

**Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director of Public Liaison**

Phone: 202-456-2930

Fax: 202-456-6218

To: Irene Bueno _____

Fax: 62883 _____

Date: 9/15/00 _____

Phone: _____

Page one of: 10 ⁹ _____

Comments: Info. from Underwood's office on issues the APA Caucus for POTUS meeting.

09/13/00

18:27

202 226 0341

CONG. UNDERWOOD

→→→ WH LAURA EFURD

001/008

**FAX****CONGRESSMAN
ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD****TO:** LAURA EFURD**ORG:** _____**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 13, 2000**PHONE:** _____**FAX:** _____**FROM:** ESTHER KIA'AINA**PHONE:** (202) 225-1188**FAX:** (202) 226-0341**PAGES INCLUDING COVER:** 8**MESSAGE:** CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANCAUCUS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

**Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
Executive Committee Meeting with the President**

White House, Cabinet Room

Friday, September 15, 2000, 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Seeking Administration Support:

- Funding for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Funding for Filipino Veterans' Benefits
- Legislation on U.S. Policy Regarding the United States' Relationship with Native Hawaiians and (S. 2899/H.R. 4904)
- The Guam War Claims Review Commission Act (H.R. 755/ S. 524)
- Health Care Relief for Territories (H.R. 5126)

Gratitude for Clinton Administration Initiatives and Other Topics for Discussion:

- Presidential Executive Order 13125 establishing the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Highest Percentage of Asian Pacific American Political appointments, including Norman Mineta as Secretary of Commerce, Bill Lann Lee as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and numerous other Asian Pacific American officials
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - White House Event on May 25, 2000
- Congressional Medal of Honor Ceremony for Asian Pacific American WWII Servicemen - White House Event on June 21, 2000
- Presidential budget request to preserve WWII internment camps as part of the Interior Appropriations budget for FY 2001
- Presidential Executive Order 13166 on Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Support for all general issues facing Asian Pacific Americans including health, education and immigration issues
- The treatment of Asian Pacific Americans within the federal government, including the progress of Secretary Richardson's Department of Energy Task Force on Racial Profiling, other federal agency initiatives addressing racial profiling, and the Wen Ho Lee case

**\$3 MILLION SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE
WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS
H.R. 4577/S. 2553**

**Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies
Appropriation Bill for Fiscal Year 2001**

Presidential Executive Order 13125 established the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and aims to improve the quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by increasing their participation in Federal programs; fostering research and data collection of AAPI populations and subpopulations; and increasing public and private sector and community involvement in improving the health and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing population in the United States and the most diverse minority group with more than 30 major subpopulation groups, including recent immigrants and indigenous sub-populations of Pacific Islanders. The lack of aggregate and subpopulation data, the highest percentage of individuals with limited English proficiency, and inadequate access to federal programs and services in health and education are just some of the challenges federal policymakers face in addressing the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The full funding of this budget request is critical to continuing the efforts of the Initiative and the work of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Since the Commission was convened in May 2000, Commissioners have embarked on an ambitious work schedule to gather input from AAPI constituencies in regional town hall meetings throughout the United States in order to submit its findings to the President. Their first report is due October 2000 and a final report will be submitted to a new President in May 2001. The importance of this Initiative to the community is tremendous. For the first time, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a national voice and have expressed their hope to identify problems and workable solutions to improve the quality of life issues.

The Initiative and Commission have much work left to do over the next year, including outreach to the AAPI community, which spans a broad distance between the Continental U.S. and U.S. territories in the Pacific, and an analysis of the Initiative's findings. Without adequate resources, the significant progress achieved thus far may quickly erode.

There is nation-wide support among the Asian Pacific American community for the White House Initiative. \$3 million is necessary to support the continuation of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, H.R. 4577/ S. 2553, for Fiscal Year 2001.

FUNDING FOR FILIPINO VETERANS' BENEFITS

After fighting courageously under U.S. command during WWII to achieve peace in the Pacific, Filipino veterans were denied promised benefits by Congress by the Rescissions Act of 1946 and have been waiting for over 50 years for restoration of benefits. They are in their late 70s and 80s and continue to fight for the equity that they rightfully deserve. The Filipino Veterans Equity Act of the 105th Congress, which sought to restore all benefits denied by the 1946 Recission Act, had bipartisan support and over 200 cosponsors. A hearing was held by the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and hearings were also held in the Senate. Unfortunately, no further action was taken.

Restoration of health care benefits is critically urgent as Filipino veterans are dying each year. In any final omnibus budget bill, \$30 million is needed to cover VA health care for Filipino veterans in the U.S., \$500,000 for the VA Outpatient Clinic in Manila, and \$5 million as proposed in the President's budget for full compensation for service disabled veterans living in the U.S. The \$30 million would actually enhance VA medical facilities in exchange for access to VA medical facilities for Filipino veterans living in the U.S. Access would be conducted in the same priority as current veterans, so no special treatment would be established for Filipino veterans. In addition, this cost is minimal in comparison to benefits promised after the war. Such funding has been proposed in H.R. 1594, the Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1999, which was introduced by Congressman Benjamin Gilman and Bob Filner and is a scaled down version of the full equity bill. Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a companion measure, S. 1391.

The fight for health care benefits is only part of the long struggle for Filipino veterans equity. In 1990, Filipino veterans were allowed eligibility for citizenship in the U.S., and in 1999, Public Law 106-69 enabled Filipino American veterans of WWII to return to the Philippines and maintain 75 percent of their benefits, including Supplemental Security Income. Restoration of health care benefits would not only provide the much needed access to health care and compensation for service disabilities, but would restore some of the benefits that these loyal veterans deserve. Funding for these benefits would be a humanitarian gesture to this group who were instrumental in the successful outcome of the war.

Filipino veterans issues have been supported by the President, other allies in Congress, and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). President Clinton issued a Presidential Proclamation in 1996 that recognized and thanked Filipino WWII veterans, and during Philippine President Joseph Estrada's recent visit to the U.S. on July 27, 2000, he issued a memorandum directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to complete a study by October 31, 2000, of Filipino veterans and to identify options available for addressing those needs. Veterans Service Organizations fully support VA health care access for Filipino WWII veterans, as expressed to Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober in a recent meeting at the White House, as long as new money is added to the budget.

Funding for Filipino veterans' benefits is necessary to advance the struggle for equity. \$30 million for VA health care in the U.S., \$500,000 for health care in the Philippines, and \$5 million as proposed in the President's budget for full disability compensation is needed in any final omnibus budget bill. Filipino veterans proved their loyalty to this nation during World War II and rightfully deserve these benefits.

S. 2899/H.R. 4904

A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians and for other purposes.

Background and Summary

On March 9, 2000, Hawaii's Congressional delegation formed the Task Force on Native Hawaiian Issues. The Task Force identified the clarification of the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States as its immediate priority. In an effort to involve a number of individuals with expertise in a variety of areas, the Task Force established five working groups: Native Hawaiian community, Federal officials, State officials, Native American community & constitutional scholars, and Congressional members and caucuses. Since March 2000, the Task Force has worked closely with the working groups and the Native Hawaiian community to draft legislation to clarify the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States.

On July 20, 2000, Senator Akaka and Senator Inouye introduced S. 2899, legislation to clarify the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. H.R. 4904, the companion measure, was introduced by Rep. Neil Abercrombie on the same day. The legislation is pending consideration by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Committee on Resources. Joint Congressional hearings were held on the legislation in Hawaii from August 28 - September 1, 2000. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has scheduled a hearing and markup of the legislation for Thursday, September 14, 2000.

The legislation clarifies the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. The legislation establishes a process for Native Hawaiians to reorganize a Native Hawaiian government and provides for federal recognition of that Native Hawaiian government for the purposes of a government-to-government relationship similar to that of Native American Indians and Alaska Natives. The legislation also establishes an office within the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues, authorizes the Department of Justice to designate an official to continue to work with the Department of the Interior in addressing Native Hawaiian issues and establishes an interagency task force.

The legislation does not establish a new relationship. The United States has acknowledged its trust relationship with Native Hawaiians and has declared a special responsibility to promote the welfare of the native peoples of the United States, including Native Hawaiians. In addition, Congress has passed over 150 statutes addressing the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

The Departments of Interior and Justice have testified in favor of the legislation which also has the strong support of the National Congress of American Indians and the Alaska Federation of Natives. The Hawaii State Legislature, National Education Association, and Japanese Americans Citizens League have also passed resolutions calling for the federal recognition of Native Hawaiians.

S. 2899/H.R. 4904**A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians and for other purposes.***What does S. 2899 (H.R. 4904) do?*

The legislation clarifies the political relationship between Native Hawaiians and the United States. The legislation establishes a process for Native Hawaiians to reorganize a Native Hawaiian government and provides for federal recognition of that Native Hawaiian government for the purposes of a government-to-government relationship similar to that of Native American Indians and Alaska Natives. The legislation also establishes an office within the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues, authorizes the Department of Justice to designate an official to continue to work with the Department of the Interior in addressing Native Hawaiian issues and establishes an interagency task force.

Why is this necessary?

The U.S. Constitution vests the Congress with the authority to conduct relations with Indian tribes. Beginning in the 1930s, the United States began to address the conditions of Alaska Natives under this authority, on the basis that Alaska Natives are also indigenous, native people of the United States. However, when the State of Hawaii was admitted into the Union in 1959, the prevailing Federal policy was the termination of Federal responsibilities related to America's native people and the delegation of those responsibilities to the several states. Accordingly, the Hawaii Admissions Act provided that the State of Hawaii would assume a trust responsibility for lands that had been set aside under Federal law in 1921 in Hawaii for the benefit of Native Hawaiians, and further provided that the balance of other lands in Hawaii which were ceded back to the State of Hawaii by the United States were required to be held in a public trust for five purposes – one of which was the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

While the Congress has enacted over 160 laws that are designed to address the conditions of Native Hawaiians, there has been no action taken to restore to the Native Hawaiian people their rights to self-determination or self-governance that were lost when the United States minister and U.S. marines assisted in the overthrow of the Native Hawaiian government on January 17, 1893. The United States did not one hundred years later to extend an apology to the Native Hawaiian people for the overthrow of their government, and this bill authorizes a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and its recognition by the United States.

This legislation makes clear that the indigenous, native people of the United States, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, have the same status under Federal law and policy – the right to self-determination and self-governance, and a Federally-recognized government-to-government relationship with the United States. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that this political and legal relationship is what distinguishes the status of the indigenous, native people of America from groups that are defined by reference to their race or ethnicity.

H.R. 755 - The Guam War Claims Review Commission Act

Background and Summary

H.R. 755 was introduced by Congressman Robert Underwood on February 11, 1999, and referred to the House Resources Committee. The bill passed the House by voice vote on September 12, 2000, and is cosponsored by Representatives Hyde, Miller, Abernombie, Kennedy, Faleomavaega, Romero-Barcelo, Christian-Christensen, Lipinski, Frost, Holden, and Ortiz. Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a companion measure, S. 524, on March 3, 1999.

H.R. 755 amends the Organic Act of Guam and provides a process for U.S. restitution to Guamanians who suffered compensable injury during the occupation of Guam by Japan during World War II. Compensable injury includes death, personal injury, or forced labor, forced march, or internment. The version of the bill which passed the House establishes a federal commission to review the relevant historical facts and determine the eligible claimants, the eligibility requirements, and the total amount necessary for compensation.

There is a lot of historical information available to show that the United States had every intention of remedying the issue of war restitution for the people of Guam. In 1945, at the urging of the Acting Secretary of the Navy to the House of Representatives, the Guam Meritorious Claims Act was enacted which authorized the Navy to adjudicate and settle war claims in Guam for property damage for a period of one year. Claims in excess of \$5,000 for personal injury or death were to be forwarded to Congress. Unfortunately, the act never fulfilled its intended purposes due to the limited time frame for claims and the preoccupation with the local population to recover from the war, resettle their homes, and rebuild their lives.

On March 25, 1947, the Hopkins Commission, a civilian commission appointed by the U.S. Navy Secretary, issued a report which revealed the flaws of the 1945 Guam Meritorious Claims Act and recommended that the Act be amended to provide on the spot settlement and payment of all claims, both property and for death and personal injury.

Despite the recommendations of the Hopkins Commission, the U.S. government failed to remedy the flaws of the Guam Meritorious Act when it enacted the War Claims Act of 1948, legislation which provided compensation for U.S. citizens who were victims of the Japanese war effort during World War II. Because Guamanians were not U.S. citizens when the act was enacted, but were U.S. nationals, they were not eligible for compensation. Guamanians finally became U.S. citizens in 1950 under the Organic Act of Guam.

In 1962, there was another attempt by Congress to address the remaining U.S. citizens and nationals that had not received reparations from previous enacted laws. Once again, however, Guamanians were inadvertently made ineligible because policymakers assumed that the War Claims Act of 1948 included them. Thus, Guam was left out of the 1962 act.

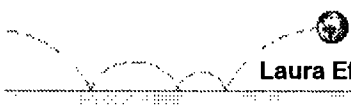
HEALTH CARE RELIEF FOR TERRITORIES
H.R. 5126

On September 7, 2000, Congresswoman Donna Christensen introduced H.R. 5126, a bill to remove the cap on medicaid payments for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa and to adjust the Medicaid statutory matching rate for those territories.

Currently, Medicaid allotments do not meet the needs of the indigent populations in the territories. Because of their current economic conditions, the reliance on Medicaid assistance has grown beyond the federal cap and beyond the territorial governments' ability to match funds.

Changing the 50-50 federal/territory match would provide the greatest relief to territories. Unlike the States which are enjoying economic prosperity, the territorial governments do not share the same economic wealth and have double-digit unemployment rates. This legislation is an attempt to raise the federal matching share to that of the poorest state, which is currently set at a 77-23 federal/state match.

Health care is an issue of vital importance to every American whether they reside in the States or U.S. Territories. Resolving Medicaid spending in the territories would go a long way toward providing health care relief as part of any final budget agreement.



Laura Efurd

09/13/2000 11:50:37 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: APA Caucus Meeting

Here is some information that may be helpful for our meeting at 5:00 pm.

APA Caucus met yesterday to finalize their list of issues to be discussed at the POTUS meeting they are:

- 1) Commend POTUS for recent actions addressing APA issues
Sec Mineta, Bill Lann Lee, Executive Order etc...
- 2) \$3 million for White House Initiative on AAPI's
- 3) \$30 million for health benefits for Filipino Veterans
- 4) Guam Restitution Bill
- 5) Territories Health Care Relief Bill, H.R. 5126 (this is new on the list)
- 6) Wen Ho Lee Case/Racial Profiling (this may be brought up at part of opening remarks by Underwood rather than a specific issue unto itself).

Message Sent To:

Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua J. Ackil/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rebecca L. Walldorff/WHO/EOP@EOP
Brian S. Mason/WHO/EOP@EOP
Erica R. Morris/WHO/EOP@EOP

Rochelle Thompson

Irene Bueno

09/13/2000 02:30:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Rochelle G. Thompson/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: update--please read...CAC mtg

Congressional APA mtg has been postponed (see below).

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP on 09/13/2000 02:30 PM -----

ERICA R. MORRIS

09/13/2000 02:28:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP, Laura L. Efras/OSTP/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: update--please read...CAC mtg

----- Forwarded by Erica R. Morris/WHO/EOP on 09/13/2000 02:28 PM -----

Marty J. Hoffmann

09/13/2000 02:24:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: update--please read...CAC mtg

Scheduling just talked to the President & Podesta about the CAC mtg. Due to several mtgs on Friday and out of respect to Inouye & Akaka who won't be able to attend the meeting, Podesta felt that we should reschedule and try to work on finding them another date & time. According to scheduling, we don't have an alternative date to offer them right now...but, would like to know if this is okay.

Please let me know if you would like to reschedule and we will call the Members back. (Also, Laura G. asked that we give her a call as soon as you decide).

----- Forwarded by Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP on 09/13/2000 02:19 PM -----

Rochelle Thompson

Marty J. Hoffmann

09/13/2000 01:55:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP, Laura Efurd/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: MoCs attending CAC Mtg, 9/15/00

*There has been some drop-off on Member participation because there are no votes in the House on Friday.

EVENT: Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus Meeting
DATE: Friday, September 15, 2000
TIME: 5:45 PM-6:45 PM
Location: Cabinet Room
PRESS: Closed
Participants: The President
CAC Executive Members

*The following Members of the CAC Executive Committee are being invited to attend the meeting.

MEMBERS CONFIRMED (4):

Rep. Robert Underwood (D-GU)
Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-HI)
Rep. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS)
Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)

MEMBERS PENDING (2):

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

MEMBERS REGRETS (5):

Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
Rep. Robert Matsui (D-CA)
Rep. David Wu (D-OR)

The following CAC Members noted by an asterisk () are active Members but not on the Executive Committee. Invites have not been extended to them; PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THEY SHOULD BE INVITED.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAC:

*Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
*Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
Rep. Tom Iantos (D-CA)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Rep. Matthew Martinez (-CA)
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA)
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)