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THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S IMPACT *on* THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

President Obama, who spent his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia, has deep ties to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and understands the unique challenges it faces. In his first year in office, President Obama signed an Executive Order to reestablish the White House Initiative on AAPIs and the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs. President Obama is working to put AAPIs and all Americans back to work in an economy built to last and to restore middle-class security for American families. President Obama believes that we are all in it together, and is committed to continuing to fight for policies that give every American, no matter their background, the opportunity to succeed.

PRESIDENT OBAMA TOOK SWIFT ACTION TO PUT AMERICANS—INCLUDING AAPIS—BACK TO WORK

- As of September 2012, the U.S. economy has experienced 31 consecutive months of private sector job growth and the U.S. economy has added 5.2 million private sector jobs over that period.
- Through the Recovery Act and the Small Jobs Act, the Obama administration provided over 19,000 loans totaling \$13 billion to Asian American small business owners to encourage hiring and make job-creating investments.
- President Obama has enacted 18 tax cuts for small businesses, including deductions for entrepreneurs who start small businesses, provide healthcare to their employees, and hire unemployed Americans.
- The Obama administration has increased job and career training opportunities for AAPIs through Workforce Investment Act programs.
- The President has proposed a 10 percent income tax credit on new payroll for small businesses—through hiring or increased wages—added in 2012.

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS WORKING *to* RESTORE ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FAMILIES

- By extending the payroll tax cut, the President has increased paychecks for an estimated 7.6 million AAPI workers.
- The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund has awarded over \$256 million in technical and financial assistance to institutions that serve AAPIs with affordable housing initiatives and that support first-time homebuyers.
- President Obama successfully fought to extend unemployment insurance that benefits at least 300,000 AAPIs and their families.
- Since the President took office, the Department of Labor (DOL) has conducted robust outreach to protect the well-being and wages of AAPI workers. This outreach includes translating materials into Asian languages.



EXPANDING ACCESS *to* A QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

- The Obama administration has invested heavily in child care and early education programs like Head Start. Over 22,000 AAPI children have access to early childhood education through Head Start.
- The Obama administration launched Race To The Top, providing grants to K-12 schools that will benefit approximately 27 percent of the nation's AAPI students.
- President Obama doubled the amount of funding for Pell Grants, making college more affordable for more working families. As a result, an estimated 40,000 additional Pell Grants will be made available to AAPI students by 2020. In addition, more than 50,000 AAPI borrowers will benefit from student loan repayment reform.
- President Obama established the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which in 2011 has provided relief to an estimated 9.4 million families with college students.
- The Obama administration increased funding for programs that help non-native English speakers and their teachers, helping the nearly one in four AAPI students who have limited English proficiency.
- President Obama is investing \$50 million in Asian American Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) over the next decade. AANAPISIs serve nearly half of AAPI undergraduate students.

MAKING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE *and* AFFORDABLE FOR AAPIS

- Approximately 18 percent of AAPIS do not have health insurance. When the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented, 95 percent of Americans will have health coverage.
- Expanded access to preventive care will reduce health disparities including treatment of diseases that disproportionately affect AAPIS, such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic health hepatitis B, and liver and cervical cancers.
- The Affordable Care Act helps AAPI seniors get the care they need by protecting Medicare, providing free preventive care, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.
- President Obama has worked to expand health coverage to four million previously uninsured children through the Children's Health Insurance Plan Reauthorization.
- He is providing health security to middle-class families by holding insurance companies accountable.
- Under the Affordable Care Act, it will be illegal for insurance companies to:
 - Deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions like heart disease, arthritis, or cancer;
 - Cancel someone's coverage if they get sick;
 - Refuse to cover children born with medical conditions;
 - Charge women more than men for health coverage.



- The Affordable Care Act will help millions of AAPI families and AAPI-owned small businesses afford health care; by 2012, the average American family will save about \$2,000 because of slowing premium growth.
- Nearly 3.1 million young adults can now stay on their parents' insurance until they turn 26, thanks to a provision of the Affordable Care Act.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON AAPIS *and* THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AAPIS

- In his first year in office, President Obama signed an executive order reestablishing the White House Initiative on AAPIS and the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIS to address issues important to the AAPI community.
- Since their reestablishment, the Initiative and Advisory Commission have hosted over 200 events in 23 states, reaching more than 22,000 people. Both the Initiative and Advisory Commission work to improve the quality of life and opportunities available for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by facilitating increased access to and participation in federal programs.
- These programs have made significant progress for the AAPI community by:
 - Creating a comprehensive "Guide to Federal Agency Resources for AAPI communities."
 - Working with the Department of Justice to increase language access for AAPIS with limited English proficiency.
 - Working with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop new data collection standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status to improve support for underserved and minority communities.
 - Deploying staff in the wake of the Gulf oil spill to connect affected Southeast Asian Americans with federal agencies and resources. The team advised the coordinated federal relief efforts on how to best support members of the AAPI community impacted by the accident.

AAPI REPRESENTATION *in* GOVERNMENT

- President Obama has more than doubled the number of Asian Americans sitting on the federal bench to 18 active federal court judges, including adding the only active Asian American federal appeals court judge.
- President Obama appointed an unprecedented amount of three Asian American Cabinet members, including Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, former Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES *of* VETERANS

- As a part of the Recovery Act, President Obama signed into law a provision that provided a \$198 million benefit to Filipino veterans of World War II. This benefit was provided as lump sum payment of \$15,000 to Filipino American veterans and \$9,000 to veterans who are noncitizens.
- President Obama signed legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team for their contributions during World War II. Both units were predominately Japanese Americans.