



Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington State
Celebrating Unity and Civic Participation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2012

Contact: Diane Narasaki, Owen Lei
Phone: 206-695-7600

Largest Asian Pacific American Civic Engagement Event in the Nation *Sept. 21 event to include voter registration drive and gubernatorial candidate forum*

With the spotlight on civic participation in this election year, over a thousand Asian Pacific Americans, the country's fastest growing racial minority, will gather in Tacoma for the statewide Asian Pacific American Summit on September 21, 2012.

The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC), a statewide network of Asian and Pacific Islander community groups organizing the summit, expects this to be the largest event of its kind in the nation.

"We are bringing Asian Pacific Americans together to celebrate our cultural diversity and to promote greater engagement in the democratic process among our rapidly growing communities," said Diane Narasaki, chair of the APIC chapter in King County. "The summit will demonstrate the Asian Pacific American community's strength, unity and diversity, and inspire our community to vote in 2012."

Showcasing Asian and Pacific Islander cultural entertainment, organizations, and businesses, the summit will bring together registered voters who speak more than 20 languages and will help register additional voters. It also will feature a multilingual gubernatorial candidate forum with real-time translation.

"Jay Inslee has confirmed he will be there, Rob McKenna has chosen not to participate. Both candidates were invited six months ago," said Narasaki. The candidate will respond to questions on issues crucial to Asian Pacific Americans.

Mee Moua, the first Hmong woman elected to a state senate and current President of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C., will be the keynote speaker.

Participants are expected from all over Washington, including King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima, Spokane, and Thurston counties. To date, over 100 organizations have endorsed the summit. Major union and corporate sponsors include United Food & Commercial Workers – Local 21 (UFCW 21), ResCare HomeCare, Southwest Airlines and Union Bank.

Who: A free event open to all Asian and Pacific Islanders – immigrants, refugees, and American-born youth, adults, and seniors.

What: 2012 Asian Pacific American Summit: Celebrating Unity & Civic Involvement

When: Friday, September 21, 2012 from 10AM - 3PM

Where: Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall

Website: www.apicwa.org/summit

For more information, please contact: Diane Narasaki - King County, dianen@acrs.org, 206-695-7600
Faaluaina Pritchard - Pierce County, 253-383-3900 | Lin Crowley - South Puget Sound, 360-888-6243
Brian Lock - South Puget Sound, 360-771-2398 | Dori Peralta Baker - Yakima Valley, 509-945-0891
Vang Xiong X. Toyed – Spokane, 509-869-5660 | Kim Le - Southwest Washington, 360-521-5420
Van Dinh Kuno - Snohomish County, 425-388-9312

###

The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) is dedicated to promoting equitable access to culturally competent and linguistically accessible health and human services, economic development for small businesses, civil and human rights, equal access to education and other concerns of Asian Pacific Americans, including immigrants, refugees, and citizens, in Washington State.