

#APAICSL EADS | #APAICSH EALTH



APAICS

HEALTH SUMMIT



MARCH 25-26, 2025

[APAICS.ORG/HEALTH-SUMMIT-2025](https://apaics.org/health-summit-2025)



@APAICS



APAICS



APAICS_ORG / APAICSL EADS

MARCH 25, 2025

AGENDA

Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time.

12:00 PM -
12:10 PM

OPENING REMARKS

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (WA-07)
Rep. Amata Radewagen (American Samoa)

12:10 PM -
1:05 PM

TACKLING CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Sponsored By: Amgen, AstraZeneca

OMH and NIH report that Asian Americans have a high prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, smoking, Tuberculosis, and liver disease, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders suffer from the highest rates of heart disease, hypertension, asthma, cancer incidence, and diabetes in comparison with all other ethnicities. Yet research funding for AA & NH/PI research lags significantly behind other communities. This panel will explore strategies to improve health outcomes for these populations.

Opening Remarks: Madalene Mielke, APAICS

Panelists and Moderators:

- **Rep. Megan Srinivas, MD, MPH, Iowa State Legislature**
- **Liam Lee, PhD, Astra Zeneca**
- **Shushama Alam, PharmD, Amgen**
- **Adam Carbullido, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations**
- **Jenifer Ngo Waldrop, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition**
- **Moderator: Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS, Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center**

1:05 PM -
2:00 PM

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AT 15

Sponsored By: Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010, the insurance coverage gap between Asian Americans and whites was virtually eliminated. Yet, with this groundbreaking legislation, Korean Americans and the NH/PIs remain one of the highest uninsured groups in the nation. Beyond providing access to healthcare, the ACA has also lowered the costs of prescription drugs and worked to address language barriers. This panel will explore the impact of the ACA on AA & NH/PI communities and what more is needed to achieve health equity.

Opening Remarks: Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-04) and Rep. Kim Schrier (WA-08)

Panelists and Moderator:

- **Kevin Nguyen, MS, PhD, Boston University**
- **Alisha Lineswala, JD, Planned Parenthood Federation of America**
- **Nisha Quasba, MPH, Faegre Drinker**
- **Joyce Liu, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum**
- **Moderator: Victor Yang, MPH, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging**

MARCH 25, 2025

AGENDA

Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time.

2:00 PM -
2:45 PM

LET'S TALK ABOUT MEDICAL DEBT

Sponsored By: PhRMA

Medical debt is a pressing issue with profound consequences for individuals and communities, disproportionately affecting communities of color and older Americans. This panel will explore the systemic factors driving the accumulation of medical debt, such as rising healthcare costs, insurance gaps, and structural inequities in the healthcare system. Panelists will discuss how medical debt exacerbates health disparities, limits access to care, and perpetuates economic inequality.

Opening Remarks: Rep. Grace Meng (NY-06) and Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17)

Panelists and Moderators:

- **Rita K. Kuwahara, MD, MIH, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations**
- **Clayton Fong, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging**
- **Samantha Sears, MA, National Consumers League**
- **Moderator: Irene Bueno, JD, APAICS National Advisory Council Member**

2:45 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Madalene Mielke, APAICS

MARCH 26, 2025

AGENDA

Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time.

12:00 PM - **OPENING REMARKS**

12:10 PM
Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10)
Rep. Lucy McBath (GA-06)

12:10 PM - **INTERPRETING HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH
DISAGGREGATED DATA**

1:00 PM

Sponsored By: Compassions & Choices and Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The AA & NH/PI community hails from over 50 countries that comprise more than 60% of the world's population with more than 100 different languages spoken. Yet, in medical research and public health in the United States, people with AA & NH/PI ancestry are almost always grouped into a single racial category or, at best, into two. This panel will explore the invisibility of the AA & NH/PI data category that obscures health disparities.

Opening Remarks: Rep. Judy Chu (CA-28) and Rep. Mark Takano (CA-39)

Panelists and Moderators:

- Erin Henderson Lacerdo, MSW, LCSW, Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i
- Samira Khan, MPH, South Asian Public Health Association
- Joshua Ang Price, Hybrid Strategies, LLC & National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
- Suzanna Tiapula, Esq, Hawai'i County
- Isha Weerasinghe, MSc, The Center for Law and Social Policy
- Moderator: Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS, Stanford University

1:00 PM - **AI AND EMERGING HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES**

2:00 PM

Sponsored By: Biogen

A recent survey found that seventy-seven percent of health executives indicated that AI is among their top three priorities for investment in the next 12 months. Emerging technologies can help improve patient diagnosis and treatment by analyzing vast data, identifying patterns, and providing personalized insights. This panel explores how technology will change the quality of care and the overall patient experience.

Opening Remarks: Sen. Mazie Hirono (HI) and Rep. Ted Lieu (CA-36)

Panelists and Moderators:

- Marshall Chin, MD, MPH, University of Chicago
- Neal Palafox, MD, MPH, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Mary Joy Garcia-Dia, DNP, MS, RN, FAAN, New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Moderator: David Inoue, MPH, MHA, Japanese American Citizens League

MARCH 26, 2025

AGENDA

Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time.

2:00 PM -
2:55 PM

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Fear of judgment from family members and friends is a cultural challenge in addressing mental health in AA & NH/PI communities, which has resulted in startling statistics in recent years. Suicide was the leading cause of death for Asian Americans ages 15 to 24, and Asian American adults were 50% less likely to have received mental health treatment than non-Hispanic white adults. This panel will explore the importance of mental health and interventions to achieve greater access.

Opening Remarks: Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-07) and Rep. Suhas Subramanyam (VA-10)

Panelists and Moderators:

- Marielle Reataza, MD, MS HPL, National Asian Pacific American Families Allied for Substance Awareness and Harm Reduction
- Debra M. Kawahara, PhD, American Psychological Association
- Ayesha Meer, Asian Mental Health Collective
- Michelle Garcia, Thriving Asians
- Kadisha Tautua'a, Pacific Islander Health Partnership
- Moderator: Christine Catipon, PsyD, Asian American Psychological Association

2:55 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Madalene Mielke, APAICS

5:30 PM

IN-PERSON RECEPTION

MARCH 25-26, 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

U.S. Senate, Hawai'i

Senator Mazie K. Hirono has served the people of Hawaii in the Senate since 2013. She is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC (Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus). Senator Hirono has worked to put the values, people, and communities of Hawaii at the forefront of her work every day. She has also authorized legislation to honor Filipino World War II Veterans, promote military clean energy use, expand opportunities for Hawaii small businesses, and invest in the education, training, and treatment of servicemembers from their time in uniform to their transition home.



REPRESENTATIVE DORIS MATSUI

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-07

Representative Doris Matsui is a member of the House of Representatives serving California's 7th District since 2005. She is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC (Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus). Representative Matsui has worked tirelessly to improve access to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care and was instrumental in establishing the Affordable Care Act. She is a leader on expanding the use of telehealth and growing the digital health ecosystem to help bridge gaps in care as well as an advocate for robust mental and behavioral health services.



REPRESENTATIVE AMI BERA

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-06

Representative Ami Bera, M.D. has represented California's 6th District in the House of Representatives since 2013. He serves as Whip for CAPAC. Representative Bera uses the skills he learned during his twenty-year medical career as a doctor to listen to the people of Sacramento County and put people ahead of politics to move our country forward. His priority is to work alongside people in both parties to address our nation's most pressing challenges and make government work, where his Sacramento County office has helped return more than \$19 million to local taxpayers.

MARCH 25-26, 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



REPRESENTATIVE JUDY CHU

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-28

Representative Judy Chu was elected to the House of Representatives in 2009, representing California's 28th District. She serves as the Chair Emerita for CAPAC. Some of Representative Chu's proudest accomplishments in Congress include: introducing and passing a Congressional resolution of regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, working with President Obama to declare the San Gabriel Mountains a national monument, requiring the Department of Defense to address military hazing, establishing two new Small Business Development Centers in the San Gabriel Valley, and reviving the Small Business Administration's 504 loan refinance program.



REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN HORSFORD

U.S. House of Representatives, NV-04

Representative Steven Horsford represents Nevada's 4th District in the House of Representatives. Horsford is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Congressman Horsford has worked to ensure veterans, senior citizens, and all Nevadans received the benefits they deserve, authored and passed the Nevada Lands Bill to create jobs across the state, and fought to protect a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. He brings a principled focus on job creation, community development, and skills development to Congress.



REPRESENTATIVE GRACE MENG

U.S. House of Representatives, NY-06

Representative Grace Meng is serving her seventh term in the House of Representatives, where she represents New York's 6th District. She is the Chair of CAPAC. Representative Meng has passed legislation on supporting religious freedom, making Queens historic sites part of the National Park Service, striking "Oriental" from federal law, protecting public housing residents from insufficient heat, championing improvements to broadband and internet access for students, and establishing the first step in creating a national museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture. She also passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law to combat the rise in hate and violence during the coronavirus pandemic.

MARCH 25-26, 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



REPRESENTATIVE MARK TAKANO

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-39

Representative Mark Takano serves in the House of Representatives for California's 39th District since his election in 2022, following his time representing California's 41st District from 2012 to 2022. Takano is the First Vice Chair of CAPAC. As former Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Representative Takano authored the Honoring our PACT Act, comprehensive toxic exposure legislation that addresses the full scope of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans' access to care and benefits. He believes everyone should have access to the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.



REPRESENTATIVE AMATA RADEWAGEN

U.S. House of Representatives, American Samoa

Representative Amata Radewagen was elected to the House of Representatives for American Samoa in 2014. Representative Radewagen is active on issues of health, education, welfare, political status, and all economic and social programs concerning the U.S. Territories: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), along with the Freely Associated States (FAS) of Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (RMI), in addition to overseeing policies affecting the 562 Federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States.



REPRESENTATIVE TED LIEU

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-36

Representative Ted Lieu is serving his sixth term for California's 36th District in the House of Representatives. Lieu is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Congressman Lieu has established himself as a leader on artificial intelligence, the environment, cybersecurity, civil liberties, foreign affairs, and veterans. He is also an outspoken proponent of more effective government oversight and adherence to the rule of law. Lieu has been a leader in Congress against ethnic and racial profiling, including discrimination against the LGBTQ community and hate toward the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

MARCH 25-26, 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



REPRESENTATIVE PRAMILA JAYAPAL

U.S. House of Representatives, WA-07

Representative Pramila Jayapal represents Washington's 7th District and is currently serving her fifth term in Congress. Jayapal is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Representative Jayapal has been a leader on immigration, addressed income inequality by expanding collective bargaining rights for workers, worked extensively on health care issues as the lead sponsor of the Medicare for All bill in the House, authored landmark pieces of progressive legislation, and helped to introduce legislation to transition our economy to 100% clean energy and address the crisis of climate justice.



REPRESENTATIVE RO KHANNA

U.S. House of Representatives, CA-17

Representative Ro Khanna is serving his fifth term serving for 17th District in the House of Representatives. Khanna is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Representative Khanna has worked to deliver on legislation investing in science and technology, creating millions of tech jobs and revitalizing American manufacturing and production. He is committed to using his position to advance a foreign policy of military restraint and diplomatic engagement. Khanna is also a supporter of the labor movement and has pushed for policies like the PRO Act to ensure that no one with a full-time job needs to rely on food stamps, housing vouchers, or other welfare.



REPRESENTATIVE KIM SCHRIER

U.S. House of Representatives, WA-08

Representative Kim Schrier has served Washington's 8th District since her election to the House of Representatives in 2018. Schrier is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. As the first pediatrician in Congress, Representative Schrier brings a critical voice to issues related to health care. Through her own experiences as a patient living with Type 1 diabetes, Schrier understands the fear of health care costs and access for people living with pre-existing conditions. Additionally, as a physician who has worked in a broken health care system, she understands what changes need to be made for it to work better for both patients and providers.

MARCH 25-26, 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



REPRESENTATIVE LUCY MCBATH

U.S. House of Representatives, GA-06

Representative Lucy McBath represents Georgia's 6th District in the House of Representatives. McBath is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Representative McBath's legislative achievements include the HAVEN Act, which protects veterans experiencing financial hardship; a bill that caps the cost of insulin for seniors on Medicare at \$35 per month; and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first comprehensive gun safety legislation in over three decades. She seeks bipartisan solutions to end gun violence, uplift small businesses and our economy, protect and serve our nation's veterans, and lower the cost of health care and prescription drugs.



REPRESENTATIVE MARILYN STRICKLAND

U.S. House of Representatives, WA-10

Representative Marilyn Strickland represents Washington's 10th District in the House of Representatives. Strickland is an Executive Board Member of CAPAC. Representative Strickland has focused on delivering for Washington State, where she secured over \$12 million in housing, pedestrian safety, clean water, workforce development, and transit investments directly for her region. She came to Congress to ensure that big government works for the South Sound and serve as a voice for traditionally underrepresented communities as we rebuild an economy that works for all.



REPRESENTATIVE SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

U.S. House of Representatives, VA-10

Representative Suhas Subramanyam was elected in 2024 to serve Virginia's 10th District in the House of Representatives. Subramanyam is the Freshman Representative of CAPAC. Congressman Subramanyam has dedicated his career to improving the health, safety, and prosperity of every American. In his previous roles with the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia State Senate, he passed landmark legislation to lower the costs of tolls, utility bills, and prescription drugs. Subramanyam also previously served as a White House technology policy advisor to President Obama.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 1 | Tackling Challenges in Achieving Health Outcomes



REPRESENTATIVE MEGAN SRINIVAS, MD, MPH

Iowa State Legislator and Infectious Disease Physician

Rep. Megan Srinivas is currently serving her first term in the Iowa State House of Representatives. She works as an infectious disease physician. She graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High School, received bachelor's and master's degrees from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and medical degree from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She completed internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland; and infectious disease fellowship at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Rep. Srinivas was the first student representative on Iowa State Board of Education; started and led Presents of Hope, aiding homeless women and their families; chair of Iowa's Biden-Harris COVID Response Council; member, Iowa Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission; member, Iowa chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) board.



LIAM LEE, PHD

Senior Director of US Oncology Medical Diagnostics, AstraZeneca

Liam Lee is the Senior Director of Medical Diagnostics within US Medical Affairs for Oncology at AstraZeneca. In this role, he leads a team of inspired medical directors to shape and deliver innovative strategies to optimize patient care via timely, accurate, and guideline-concordant biomarker testing for every eligible patient. Specifically, Liam and his team rely on internal and external partnerships focused on enhanced education, engagements, and evidence generations to eliminate various gaps preventing effective biomarker testing. Liam has focused on oncology diagnostics throughout his career, holding a B.S. in Clinical Molecular Genetics from UT MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) and a Ph.D. in Pathology from the University of Cambridge; currently also serving as an adjunct, teaching faculty in the Molecular Diagnostics Program at MDACC while maintaining board certification from American Society of Clinical Pathology.



SHUSHAMA ALAM, PHARM D

Global Medical Director, Amgen

In this role, Shu shapes global strategic direction in thought leader engagement and partners with cross-functional colleagues in driving engagement excellence amongst key stakeholders and professional societies. Shu joined Amgen in 2015 as a Medical Science Liaison (MSL) on the Cardiovascular team. Transitioning to Principal MSL in 2022, she led various cross-company initiatives including spearheading omnichannel efforts, insights generation, field medical resource development, and publications, serving as a co-author of the GOULD Registry. Shu holds a PharmD from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. She completed her post-PharmD Medical Affairs fellowship at MCPHS/Genzyme and has held positions in the cardiometabolic space since, including a prior Obesity-focused MSL role at Vivus.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 1 | Tackling Challenges in Achieving Health Outcomes



ADAM CARBULLIDO

Director of Policy and Advocacy, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Adam Carbullido is the Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), where he develops and implements AAPCHO's legislative and regulatory strategies and leads engagement with Congress, the White House, federal agency officials, and national and community partners to advance policies that uplift Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AA & NH/PI) health providers. Prior to AAPCHO, Adam worked for nearly a decade on Capitol Hill, most recently as chief of staff to Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam). He co-chairs the National Council on Asian Pacific Americans' Health Committee and is a steering member of Protecting Immigrant Families'. Adam is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. A native Chamoru from Guam, he currently resides in Washington, D.C. with his husband Bobby.



JENIFER NGO WALDROP

Executive Director, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition

Jenifer Ngo Waldrop, the Executive Director of the Rare Disease Diversity Coalition (RDDC) at the Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI) since October 2022, has spearheaded transformative initiatives across the rare disease treatment continuum, addressing systemic inequities that hinder equitable access to diagnostics, clinical trials, therapeutics, and sustained care. Leveraging data-driven insights and RDDC's strategic deliverables, she has championed solutions to dismantle barriers to clinical trial participation and treatment access, fostering measurable progress in health equity for underrepresented communities. She has successfully mobilized diverse community stakeholders in the non-profit arena, leading efforts to reduce health disparities through innovative programs and fundraising initiatives. As the Professional Development Director for the National Association of Asian-American Professionals (NAAAP) of Colorado, Jenifer continues to influence the next generation of leaders through mentorship, guiding executive leadership, strategic career advancement, and stakeholder engagement.



JEFFREY VELOTTA, MD, FACS (MODERATOR)

Thoracic Surgeon, Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center

Dr. Velotta, a Bay Area native, moved to the East Coast to begin medical school at George Washington University. He then returned to the West Coast to start his general surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center. During this time, Dr. Velotta also completed his postdoctoral research in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. Following this, he completed his training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Velotta's clinical and research interests involve innovative techniques and regionalization pathways for lung cancer. In addition, his most recent research involves improving lung cancer screening uptake in Asian Americans and identifying key factors in the rising incidence of lung cancer in non-smoking women.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 2 | The Affordable Care Act at 15



KEVIN NGUYEN, MS, PHD

Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Law, Policy, and Management, Boston University

Dr. Kevin Nguyen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Law, Policy, and Management at the Boston University School of Public Health. He is a health services researcher with expertise in the quality and equity of care delivered to marginalized populations, including Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander people. His studies have identified key differences in health insurance coverage and access to care among AA & NH/PIs when data is disaggregated by ethnic group. His work focuses on the roles of Medicaid policy and care delivery reform in improving patient experience in the health care safety net and has been published in JAMA, Health Affairs, and American Journal of Public Health. He received his doctorate in Health Services Research from Brown University, an MS in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



ALISHA LINESWALA, JD

Senior Policy Analyst, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Alisha is a South Asian immigrant who frequently saw members in her family struggle to access affordable and culturally competent care. That experience sparked Alisha's commitment to making health care a human right for all people. Now, she crafts policy solutions focused on increasing access to affordable, high-quality, and nonjudgmental sexual and reproductive health care (SRH) in public benefit programs. In her current role as a Senior Policy Analyst at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Alisha leads PPFA's strategy to protect and expand access to SRH care in Medicaid. She also works on benefits for veterans and their families, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. In her free time, Alisha serves as the National Board President of Zeta Sigma Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. In that role, she leads with a strategic vision focused on Zeta Sigma Chi's pillars, fostering organizational growth and enhancing member engagement on a national scale.



JOYCE LIU

Policy Advisor, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Joyce Liu leads the VENG Group clients on government affairs and strategic communications. Joyce has successfully led the lobbying and communications efforts for her clients on over a dozen bills and campaigns, including federal nominations, Veterans issues, immigration, and the passage of the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act. Her current government portfolio includes work in labor, banking, and health. Her communications work includes op-eds in The New York Times, Washington Post, and other media outlets, along with earned and paid media placements. Joyce has successfully mapped and advised communications plans and strategies for her clients in government, non-profit organizations, and foundations. Before joining VENG Group, Joyce served in both the public and private sectors in the U.S. House of Representatives and at Calvert Street Group. Joyce holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Vanderbilt University.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 2 | The Affordable Care Act at 15



NISHA QUASBA, MPH

Senior Manager, Health Policy & Government Relations, Faegre Drinker

Nisha Quasba is a seasoned government and regulatory affairs professional at Faegre Drinker Consulting with a proven track record of navigating the legislative landscape to drive meaningful policy reforms. Through her advocacy, she has successfully built bipartisan, bicameral support for critical legislation, shaping policies that resonate with diverse stakeholders. Her work has made a significant impact on the rare disease community, the telehealth sector, and the practice of pharmacy. A dedicated public health policy advocate, Nisha is committed to safeguarding public health and safety through informed policymaking. Before joining Faegre Drinker, she served as a public policy specialist with the Association of Public Health Laboratories, where she facilitated collaboration between government agencies, policymakers, and association members to advance key public health initiatives.



VICTOR YANG (MODERATOR)

Chief Government Affairs Officer, National Asian Pacific American Center on Aging

Victor Yang leads public policy at NAPCA. He is based in Washington D.C. and previously worked in the Federal Government. Victor began his career in Boston, working at nonprofits that provided healthcare and social services to Chinese immigrant families. He also worked in the Massachusetts State House for a state senator. He later moved to Washington D.C. where he served as a Congressional Staffer and as a political appointee in the Biden Administration. He also had a stint as a non-profit consultant working on issues that impact the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community. Victor holds a Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University. He is originally from Lexington, Massachusetts, the site of the first shots of the American Revolutionary War.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 3 | Let's Talk About Medical Debt



RITA K. KUWAHARA, MD, MIH

Senior Advisor for Medicine and Health Policy, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Rita Kaur Kuwahara, MD, MIH is a Primary Care Internal Medicine Physician and Senior Advisor for Medicine and Health Policy at the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO). She previously served as Health Policy Advisor in the U.S. House of Representatives and APAICS Congressional fellow in the U.S. Senate. Following her internal medicine residency training, she completed her primary care health policy clinical fellowship at Georgetown University, where she also served as a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services fellow at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. She has held numerous national leadership positions, including National Co-Chair of Doctors for America's Access to Affordable Care Committee and National Steering Committee on Prescription Drug Affordability and she currently serves on Healo News' National Primary Care Physician Peer Perspective Board. She received her M.D. as a Distinguished Medical Scholar from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Master of International Health from the University of Copenhagen, and B.A. from Wellesley College, where she majored in Chemistry and Peace and Justice Studies with a concentration in the Inequities in the Health Care System in the U.S. and Abroad.



CLAYTON FONG

President & CEO, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

Clayton Fong is a Senior Executive and Board member in Business, Health, Aging and Government. He has previously served as Deputy Assistant to the President in the White House, Deputy Appointment Secretary for the Governor of California, CEO of NAPCA, Executive Vice President and Member of the Board of a NASDAQ listed international energy company. He has also served on numerous boards including Commissioner of the White House Fellows program, Commissioner of the White House Conference on Aging, US Delegate to the World Assembly on Aging, Chair of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, ITN America, CMS Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, AT&T Advisory panel on Aging and Disability, Washington State Alzheimer's Association, Board of Visitors of University of Washington School of Nursing. He attended UC Berkeley where he received his Bachelors in Health Science and was a recipient of the President's Fellowship Grant. He went on to be a Public Policy Fellow at UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies.



SAMANTHA SEARS, MA

Health Policy Associate, National Consumers League

Samantha Sears is the Health Policy Associate here at the National Consumers League, having joined the team in January of 2024. She has worked in the health policy space for five years now, focusing on various aspects and issues within the field. Before joining NCL, Sam worked with the National Council of Urban Indian Health, a national organization focusing on the health and well-being of urban Natives across the US and the facilities that provide their care. Sam received her Master of Arts in Public Policy with a concentration in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from George Washington University. She received her BA in Mathematics from SUNY Geneseo.

MARCH 25, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 3 | Let's Talk About Medical Debt



IRENE BUENO, JD (MODERATOR)

APAICS National Advisory Councilmember

With decades of experience working in and with the highest levels of government, Irene provides clients with critical insights and advice on issues ranging from education to health care. Irene has been recognized as a Top Lobbyist by the National Institute of Lobbying and Ethics. Irene's experience has helped her develop extensive high-level relationships across government, including in the executive branch; House and Senate Democratic Leadership; Congressional Committees with jurisdiction over health, education, and appropriations issues; and the Tri-Caucus (Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, and Asian Pacific American Caucus). At NVG, Irene leads by drawing on her networks and knowledge of the executive and legislative branches to promote clients' policy objectives. And she gets results – most recently, her clients saw their policy priorities reflected with the inclusion of language in the Affordable Care Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act; and, in every Congress, Irene ensures her clients secure critical funding for medical research and education programs.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 4 | Interpreting Health Disparities Through Disaggregated Data



ERIN HENDERSON LACERDO, MSW, LCSW

Executive Director, Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i

Erin Henderson Lacerdo, LCSW, IECMH-E® (she/her) is a Native Hawaiian, Japanese, and Caucasian licensed clinical social worker, born and raised in Hawai'i. She serves as the Executive Director for the Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i (AIMH HI), working to embed developmentally appropriate mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention into systems across the state through workforce development initiatives and consultation. Erin is particularly passionate about ensuring access to high quality services in harder to reach communities and supporting mental health from a culturally humble perspective.



SAMIRA KHAN, MPH

President, South Asian Public Health Association

Assistant Director of Research and Clinical Initiatives, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Samira Khan is the President of the South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA). Established in 1999, SAPHA promotes the health and well-being of South Asian communities in the United States through advocacy, collaboration, and communication. Since then, SAPHA has received national recognition for its efforts to raise the health profile of South Asians. Alongside the board, she has led SAPHA's efforts in advocacy, research, health education, professional development, and partnerships to address critical issues affecting South Asian communities. Samira is also currently the Assistant Director of Research and Clinical Initiatives at Mount Sinai in New York, where she has been working with divisional leadership on clinical integration and care standardization at the Respiratory Institute by tracking quality metrics and health outcomes, implementing quality improvement projects, and the development of research initiatives. She simultaneously continues in her role as research manager for Dr. Neomi Shah's lab, overseeing clinical research operations, grant applications, project development, and data management. She also sits on the board of directors for the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA). She received her Master's in Public Health from Hofstra University and her Bachelors in Psychology from CUNY City College.



JOSHUA ANG PRICE

CEO, Hybrid Strategies, LLC

Board Member, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA)

Co-founder, Tayo Help Desk

Joshua Ang Price (he/siya) is the CEO of Hybrid Strategies, a Florida-based consulting firm specializing in government policy/comms, community development projects, and nonprofit fundraising. He is also a co-founder of Tayo Help Desk, an online platform launched in 2020 by the Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO) to provide vital, trustworthy, and culturally-relevant information to Filipino communities. Born and raised in Arkansas, Josh is a former Election Commissioner in Arkansas's most populous county and a former candidate for Arkansas Secretary of State. Josh served with the federal government under three US Presidents, including senior leadership roles with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and US Small Business Administration (SBA) Arkansas Office during the pandemic, and consulting roles with the US Dept. of State on international Democracy initiatives. Josh earned his BS in Sociology and Public Administration from the University of Central Arkansas. He also serves as a regular political commentator for Philippine media ABS-CBN and Bombo Radyo Manila.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 4 | Interpreting Health Disparities Through Disaggregated Data



SUZANNA TIAPULA, ESQ

Deputy Corporation Counsel at Office of Corporation Counsel, Hawai'i County

Ms. Tiapula is a member of the Counseling and Drafting Division. She was born and raised in American Samoa, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Tech University and her Juris Doctorate from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1996. She has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i since 1996. Prior to joining the Office of the Corporation Counsel, Ms. Tiapula served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i and for the City and County of Honolulu. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General in American Samoa handling primarily child maltreatment, sexual assault and domestic violence. When she served as the Director of the National District Attorneys Association's National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse and NDAA's Human Trafficking Programs, Ms. Tiapula supervised design and delivery of training and technical assistance to tens of thousands of prosecutors and allied front-line professionals each year.



ISHA WEERASINGHE

Associate Director for Mental Health and Well-Being, The Center for Law and Social Policy

Isha Weerasinghe is the Center for Law and Social Policy's associate director of mental health and well-being. She focuses on federal and state advocacy and partnership building to improve mental health services, particularly for historically disenfranchised people. Ms. Weerasinghe was previously the director of policy and advocacy at the Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO). She led and participated in city and national coalition building and provided policy guidance on the local and national levels for AA&NHPI-serving community health centers and organizations in health access and equity. Ms. Weerasinghe conducted community-based participatory research, as well as local and state policy advocacy at New York University's Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH), working within New York City and New York state. She started her federal policy career working to improve the lives of people living with hepatitis B and their families. She is the Vice Chair of the board of Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso (FAN DC) and is the Board Chair of 9to5: National Association of Working Women.



LATHA PALANIAPPAN, MD, MS (MODERATOR)

Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

Latha Palaniappan MD, MS, is an internist, and clinical and population researcher. Her research has focused on the study of diverse populations, chronic disease and prevention, and seeks to address the gap in knowledge of health in Asian subgroups and other understudied racial/ethnic minorities. She was awarded a Stanford Impact Labs Leave in Service to pursue chronic disease prevention in India for Social Good. She is the Faculty co-Director of Stanford Biobank, designed to accelerate translatable scientific discoveries and co-founder for the Stanford Center for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Health Research and Education (CARE). CARE has established health related research collaborations in Asia, including student exchange programs in Hong Kong and Vietnam, and research collaborations in India, Japan, and Singapore. She has recently received a Fulbright Future Scholar Award and worked with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization on the implementation of Precision Health in Australia.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 5 | AI and Emerging Healthcare Technologies



MARSHALL CHIN, MD, MPH

Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago

Dr. Marshall Chin, the Richard Parrillo Family Distinguished Service Professor of Healthcare Ethics at the University of Chicago, is a practicing general internist and health services researcher who has dedicated his career to advancing health equity through interventions at individual, organizational, community, and policy levels. Dr. Chin co-chaired the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality-National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Consensus Panel that developed Guiding Principles to Address the Impact of Algorithm Bias on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care, published in the journal JAMA Network Open. Dr. Chin received the Society of General Internal Medicine's 2024 Robert J. Glaser Award for outstanding contributions to research, education, leadership, and mentoring in generalism in medicine and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017.



NEAL PALAFOX

Professor of Population Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Neal A. Palafox, M.D., M.P.H. is Professor of Populations Sciences in the Pacific at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC), and Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i. Over the last 35+ years, his focus has been on reducing health disparities in the populations of Hawai'i and the US Affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) jurisdictions of American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau. The work has utilized evolving medical, communication and AI technologies for health/health care workforce capacity building, establishing a Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry, Pacific Regional Cancer Prevention and Control, and research. Dr. Palafox is an MPI of the NCI PACHE U54 Partnership Grant between the UHCC and the University of Guam, NIGMS PIKO U54 IDeA-CTR for Hawai'i, CDC's Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant, and CDC's Pacific Against Cervical Cancer (PACe) Project.



MARY JOY GARCIA-DIA, DNP, MS, RN, FAAN

Nursing Informatics Program Director, New York Presbyterian Hospital

Mary Joy Garcia-Dia, DNP, RN, FAAN, FHIMSS, is a leader in nursing informatics, advocacy, and digital transformation. As Program Director of Nursing Informatics at New York-Presbyterian, she integrates virtual care, predictive analytics, and automation to enhance clinical decision-making while ensuring ethical technology use and trust. A champion of health equity, she fosters inter-agency partnerships to address social determinants of health and empower minority communities through participatory research. A Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, she actively contributes to national initiatives, including the Information Technology Expert Panel and AI Task Force. Dr. Garcia-Dia is recognized for her contributions to responsible technology adoption in large healthcare systems, ensuring alignment with patient-centered care and clinical workflows. She is a recipient of the HIMSS 2025 Changemaker Most Influential Women in Health IT Award.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 5 | AI and Emerging Healthcare Technologies



DAVID INOUE, MPH, MHA (MODERATOR)

Executive Director, Japanese American Citizens League

Mr. David Inoue was appointed Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League in July 2017. He previously served for ten years as the administrative director for a medical shelter for homeless men in Washington, DC. Mr. Inoue worked for several years in health care policy with the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, and with the federal government at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He completed a dual bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and Asian studies at Cornell University, and obtained master's degrees in public health and health administration from The Ohio State University. A DC resident since 2001, Mr. Inoue has served as an elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and served one year as chair of the commission. He currently serves on the boards of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. He is raising two children with his wife, Kaori Kawakubo Inoue.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 6 | Mental Health Matters



MARIELLE REATAZA, MD, MS HPL

Executive Director and CEO, National Asian Pacific American Families Allied for Substance Awareness and Harm Reduction (NAPAFASA)

Marielle Reataza, MD, MS HPL, (she/siya) has 17+ years of experience as an organizer, educator, researcher, health provider, and advocate for a more equitable and accessible U.S. healthcare system. A 1.5-generation, Filipino-Chinese immigrant from Manila, Dr. Reataza's body of work reflects intersections of STEM, the humanities and arts, and cultural resilience through decolonization and trauma-informed practices. Her primary role is to serve as the Executive Director and CEO at the National Asian Pacific American Families Allied for Substance Awareness and Harm Reduction. Since 1988, NAPAFASA has served AANHPI communities by bringing awareness to risk and protective factors for substance use disorder and other behavioral health conditions. Dr. Reataza is based in Los Angeles, CA.



DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PHD

President, American Psychological Association

Debra M. Kawahara, PhD, is the 2025 American Psychological Association (APA) President and is the first Asian American woman to lead the association in its 132-year history. She is also Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor at the California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University. Known as a feminist and multicultural scholar, she has published and presented extensively on intersectionality, Asian American mental health, women's issues, Buddhist psychotherapy, and the application of feminist, multicultural, and social justice principles in practice. Several awards have been bestowed to her, and she is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Asian American Psychological Association.



AYESHA MEER

Executive Director, Asian Mental Health Collective

With over a decade of experience in nonprofit and public management, Ayesha has grown Asian Mental Health Collective into the leading organization addressing mental health in Asian communities. Ayesha's own journey to find mental health support, as an Indian South African immigrant to the US, led her to join Asian Mental Health Collective as Executive Director in 2023 and to work to create a mental health system that is by and for pan-Asian communities in the US. Prior to joining AMHC Ayesha served as Executive Director for Artemis House - a domestic and sexual violence shelter and response organization in Western South Dakota. Ayesha has particular interest in cultivating healthy and culturally empowering work environments, including preventing burn-out. Ayesha holds an MPA in Public and Nonprofit management from New York University, which she completed on a Fulbright grant.

MARCH 26, 2025

PANELIST AND MODERATORS

Panel 6 | Mental Health Matters



MICHELLE GARCIA

Executive Director, Thriving Asians

Michelle G. Garcia is a second-generation Filipina American, and Founder & Director of Thriving Asians. A macro social worker by training, Michelle's early career was marked by emerging leadership roles in health, education, and JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion). Her work took her across the globe - K-12 schools in Southeast Asia; refugee resettlement in New York; human rights programming in the Middle East; and higher education in Boston. Following her own experiences of burnout and trauma, Michelle transitioned to the mental health field. She became a mental health educator & trainer; and learned self-compassion, self-care, and stress management strategies that were transformative for her own wellbeing.



KADISHA TAUTUA'A

Media Coordinator, Pacific Islander Health Partnership

Kadisha Tautua'a is a media coordinator and mental health advocate dedicated to shifting the narrative around health in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities. For the past three years, she has led digital campaigns and in-person events to foster open conversations and increase access to culturally relevant resources. In addition to her role at PIHP, Kadisha supports media efforts for two other organizations and uses her platform as a content creator to amplify advocacy work alongside her freelance makeup artistry business. Passionate about social and environmental justice, she is committed to using media as a tool for representation, awareness, and change. When not working, she enjoys running, reading sci-fi, and all things spooky.



CHRISTINE CATIPON, PSYD (MODERATOR)

President, Asian American Psychological Association

Dr. Christine Catipon (she/they/siya) is a cisgender, queer, first-generation, able-bodied Filipinx American female who was born and raised in Southern California, land of the Tongva. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Ternate, a town in the province of Cavite on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. The elder of two daughters born to her parents, Dr. Catipon was raised in a middle-class, Catholic family and carries privileges regarding ability, education, citizenship, religion, and class status. She currently works as a Staff Psychologist at Stanford Counseling and Psychological Services and has a private practice in which most of her clients identify as BIPOC and/or queer. Dr. Catipon is President of the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA), Past Co-Chair of AAPA's Division on Filipinx Americans (DoFA), founding president of the UC Irvine Filipino American Alumni Chapter, and a founding member of the Inland Empire/Orange County Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS). Her clinical interests include anxiety and mood disorders, college mental health, first generation students of color, LGBTQ+ community, AAPI mental health and social justice, Filipina/x/o identity, life transitions and adjustment, multicultural and spiritual perspectives, outreach and community engagement. Dr. Catipon has been interviewed by PBS NewsHour, The Los Angeles Times, The Atlantic, and numerous Filipino organizations and podcasts discussing mental health in AAPI, LGBTQ+, and Filipina/x/o communities, and she is a contributing author to the recently published Sage Encyclopedia of Filipina/x/o American Studies. In her free time, she loves playing mahjong, singing karaoke, and exploring the Filipino food scene in the Bay Area.

ABOUT APAICS

Founded by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and former Delegate Robert Underwood in 1994, APAICS is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building the Asian American & Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AA & NH/PI) political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office.

INSPIRE: *Identifying future leaders for tomorrow*

EDUCATE: *Building public policy knowledge*

EMPOWER: *Developing individual leadership*

CONNECT: *Bridging local, state, and national politics & the AA & NH/PI community*

APAICS Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Founder: The Late Honorable Secretary Norman Y. Mineta

Founder: The Honorable Robert A. Underwood

Chair: Jason Chan, AT&T

Treasurer: Robin Rorick, API

Secretary: Mona Mohib, McGuireWoods Consulting

BOARD MEMBERS

Glenda Beach, State Farm Mutual Insurance Co.

Joanna Dean, Toyota Financial Services

Krish Gupta, Dell

Deriece Harrington, PepsiCo

Joon I. Kim, Comcast

Pearl Kim, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office

Alisa La, McDonald's Corporation

Jean Lee, A&O Shearman

The Honorable Manufou Liaiga Anoa'i, Jefferson

Elementary School District Governing Board

The Honorable Grace Meng, U.S. House of Representatives

Susan Moon

The Honorable Stephanie Nguyen, California State Assembly

Tariq Khan, Global Diversity Marketing, Inc.

Liliana Ranon, National Association of Broadcasters

Phillip Thomas-Wallace, MVP Strategies

The Honorable Betty Yee

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Honorable Régine Biscoe Lee, Guam Visitors Bureau

Irene Bueno

The Honorable Sam Cho, Commissioner of the Port of Seattle

Kim Delevett

Tariq Khan

The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Honolulu City Council

APAICS STAFF

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO

Dian Herrman, Chief Operating Officer

Sirat Attapit, Vice President of Programs and Community Engagement

Tania Laden, Vice President of Development and External Affairs

Gwenna Claproth, Communications Manager

Freguenet Demisse, Operations Manager

Emily Dunsmore, Programs Manager

Jasmine Minato, Development Manager

Annie Nguyen, Special Assistant to the President & CEO

Susan Ro, Women's Collective Program Manager

Ishaan Kaushal, Senior Development Associate

Cazzandra Costa, Operations Associate

Thien Huynh, Programs Associate

Mia Kawamitsu, Programs Associate

Mia Lanphear, Staff Assistant

Chloe Majzel, Development Associate

SPONSORS

CHAMPION



ALLY





ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONGRESSIONAL STUDIES

 apaics.org

 apaics@apaics.org

 T: 202.296.9200 | F: 202.296.9236

[#APAICSL EADS](https://twitter.com/apaics) | [#APAICSH EALTH](https://twitter.com/apaics)

