



ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

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U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Organizations Urge AANHPI Communities to Complete the 2020 CENSUS

LOS ANGELES, April 1, 2020 – Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) joins members of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Census 2020 Collaborative in emphasizing the importance of filling out the 2020 Census even amongst the fears generated by COVID-19. In times like this, it becomes apparent how important it is to be counted regularly so that resources can be allocated appropriately.

Since COVID-19 has come to the United States and California is largely experiencing shelter-in-place, organizations that are part of the AANHPI Census 2020 Collaborative have been educating community members about the Census and its importance using social media and other virtual tools, using 21st century tools to reach out to community members, despite no longer being able to hold events in person.

The work includes outreach to ten communities in over twenty languages, including, but not limited to Bangla, Cambodian/Khmer, Cantonese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Marshallese, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tongan, Urdu, Vietnamese, and English.

“Estimates are that for every person that goes uncounted, states, local communities and schools lose \$2,000 per person per year. That affects class sizes, public safety, healthcare programs and many other critical services. A more complete response to the Census means more opportunities for a brighter future for our community. I’m grateful that A3PCON put together a virtual event to help us highlight this issue,” remarked U.S. Representative Ted Lieu.

“We realize now more than ever how important it is to complete the census. We need to make sure we have all the public health, education, and social service resources in place for our communities, many of which are designated as hard-to-count,” said Ruthann Chou, Program Manager, A3PCON.

“Pacific Islanders have so much at stake this 2020 Census. It is about being seen and heard as a community. Being counted is our tautua, our kuleana, our duty to those who came before us and those who will follow,” shared Tavae Samuelu, Executive Director, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities.

"As a community that suffers from underrepresentation and marginalization historically, being counted in the Census is critical if we are to overcome our invisibility factor and have a myriad of needs addressed. And now with the COVID-19 pandemic causing great distress in our community, the Census is more important than ever to ensure that sufficient resources are marshaled to the most vulnerable communities," remarked Chanchanit Martorell, Executive Director, Thai Community Development Center.

“코로나 사태는 센서스에 켜지는 것이 얼마나 중요한지 부각하였습니다. 지금 절실히 필요한 병원, 보험 혜택, 비상 대비 및 의료 자원은 물론, 경제부양대책 프로그램들은 기록된 인구 수에 따라 배분됩니다.

한미연합회는 보다 많은 한인들을 당기위하여 2020년 센서스 안내 비디오와 광고 시리즈를 제작하는데에 중점을 두었습니다.

한미연합회의 유튜브 채널에서 시청하실 수 있습니다:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2s8UxmKIQUtG750J4A0epA>” said Audrey Jang, Census Coordinator, Korean American Coalition.

“The purpose of the California complete count office is to ensure a complete count for all Californians. A complete count for California includes all of our AAPI members. Thank you to our “trusted messengers” and our grassroots leaders for sending out this important message,” said Sara Pol-Lim, Regional Program Manager, Region 9, Long Beach, South Bay Cities & AAPI Communities, California Complete Count-Census 2020.