TED LIEU
CONGRESSMAN for CALIFORNIA'S 36TH DISTRICT

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Issues

Congressman Ted Lieu is a strong advocate for all Americans, including Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs). He serves on the leadership committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), which helps to promote the well-being of the AANHPI community. Within CAPAC, he heads the Veterans and Armed Services Task Force, which aims to protect civil rights and expand economic opportunity for AANHPI servicemembers and veterans, while also honoring their courageous, history-making service to our nation. As Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Congressman Lieu is the highest-ranking Asian American in the history of the House of Representatives.

Increasing Diversity and AANHPI Representation

Rep. Lieu with President Biden and his fellow CAPAC leadership members

AANHPIs are the fastest growing racial demographic in our country, but are not well-represented in government, mass media, Fortune 500 companies, and more. Congressman Lieu has advocated for more AANHPI representation in media, including by calling on the six largest cable companies in America to expand their AANHPI program offerings. Within the federal government, Congressman Lieu has challenged the lack of diversity among the work force. In June 2022, Congressman Lieu stood alongside President Biden as he signed a bill to study the creation of a national AANHPI museum into law.

Fighting Against the Rise of Anti-Asian Hate

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a surge in discrimination against AAPIs. Congressman Lieu has used his platform to repeatedly to condemn acts of violence and hate against AAPIs, including the tragic Atlanta Spa Shootings and the Monterey Park shooting. He has also spoken out about the dangers of public officials using racist terms and ethnic identifiers when describing COVID-19 because such phrases inflict direct harm on the AAPI community. In 2020, Congressman Lieu led a 150 Member bipartisan letter urging the Department of Justice to condemn anti-Asian discrimination. He has also authored legislation to give prosecutors the tools that they need to aggressively pursue hate crimes.

Rep. Lieu speaks at a Stop Asian Hate press conference

Ensuring our Government Treats Asian Americans Fairly

Congressman Lieu worked with CAPAC and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to bring attention to racial targeting and profiling of AAPIs, and has advocated for implicit bias training for DOJ personnel. He fought the false narrative that Chinese-Americans are more suspicious by advocating for researchers wrongly accused of espionage, including Sherry Chen and Professor Anming Hu.

Honoring AAPI Veterans

In 2018, Congress passed and the President signed Congressman Lieu's bipartisan, bicameral legislation to honor the contributions of more than 18,000 Chinese-American World War II veterans. This law authorized Congress to award the highest civilian honor - a Congressional Gold Medal - to these heroes. A ceremony honoring these veterans was held in December of 2020.