

MEDIA ADVISORY:
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MAJOR INAUGURAL GALA TO CELEBRATE NEW MAJORITY

Asian Americans And Pacific Islanders To Discuss Historic Elections; Record Numbers To Celebrate President-Elect Obama At Inaugural Events

WASHINGTON – Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders and celebrities will gather at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Monday, Jan. 19 to discuss their role in this year's historic elections and to celebrate the inauguration of **President-elect Barack Obama**. The events will mark the community's largest involvement in presidential inaugural celebration history.

Record numbers of Asian Americans who voted in this year's elections supported President-elect Obama by a 2-1 margin, according to the *Associated Press*. Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations turned out in force for voter outreach and voter protection programs.

Limited tickets to the Pearl Presidential Inaugural Gala went on sale last week and were sold out within days, according to Gala Co-chairs, **Francey Lim Youngberg** and **Gloria T. Caoile**. Participants will discuss the community's voter participation and increasing political strength at morning briefings. In the evening, organizers will auction and sell limited edition jewelry by Diamond Cutters International to benefit the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program.

PEARL PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL GALA

DATE: Monday, Jan 19, 2009

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: Mandarin Oriental Washington, D.C.
1330 Maryland Avenue, SW

PARTICIPANTS: **Senator Daniel K. Inouye**, Honorary Gala Co-chair
Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Honorary Gala Co-chair
Congressman Mike Honda, Honorary Gala Co-chair
Former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, Honorary Gala Co-chair
Bel Leong-Hong, Honorary Gala Council Co-chair
Shekar Narasimhan, Honorary Gala Council Co-chair

*****NOTE: Media organizations wishing to attend should make written requests on letterhead with the names of news personnel and title. Space is limited. Credential requests should be faxed to 215-895-9853 by Friday, Jan. 9. Current valid federal or state-issued photo and media identification will be required to obtain credentials. For more information about credentials, please contact Christine Chen at cchen@strategicalliancesusa.com.*****

PEARL INAUGURAL GALA -- 2

Honorary Council

Congressman Neil Abercrombie
Congresswoman Madeliene Bordallo
Delegate Eni Faleomavaega
Congresswoman Mazie Hirono
Congresswoman Doris Matsui
Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott
Congressman David Wu
Preeti Bansal
Hasan Chandoo
Ngoc Chu
Kamil Hasan
Ramey Ko

Sunita Leeds
Ginger Lew
Loida Nicolas Lewis
Gary Locke
Charmaine Manansala
Maya Soetoro Ng
Konrad Ng
Catherine Park
Stan Toy
Vinai Thummalapally
Robert Underwood

Community Partners

Asian American Action Fund
Indian American Leadership Institute

Briefing Partners

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote
National Council of Asian Pacific
Americans

Supporting Organizations

Asian American LEAD
America's Opportunity Fund
Amerivision
Asian American Government Executives
Network
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Committee of 100
Disabled Veterans Association
Federal Asian Pacific American Council
Filipino American Democrats

Indian American Leadership Institute
Japanese American Citizen League
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of
Northern California
Korean American Coalition
Korean American Democratic Club
National Alliance of Vietnamese Service
Agencies
National Asian Pacific American Bar
Association
National Coalition for Asian Pacific
American Community Development
Organization of Chinese Americans
OCA – Greater Washington DC Chapter
OCA-Northern Virginia Chapter
OCA – New York Chapter
Pusod
Raising Our Asian Pacific American
Representation
South Asian American Leaders of
Tomorrow

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****NOTE: For more information about the Pearl Presidential Inaugural Gala and related events, please visit www.pearlgala.com. ****