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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

November 28, 2007

Message from Congressman Mike Honda

### Welcoming All to the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association's Annual Conference

Dear Friends,

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, it is an honor to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending APISBMA's Annual Conference. APISBMA's Annual Conference continues to be a venue that draws leaders within the API education community together to strategize on how to better serve the needs of API students.

The API community is exceedingly diverse, and yet we are often considered as one undifferentiated group. As a result, we are often a widely misunderstood community. The unacknowledged complexity of our community is especially problematic when dealing with education. The simplistic 'model minority' stereotype unfairly categorizes all API students as high performing, masking lower performing API subgroups and denying these students of critical education support services.

As a former educator and school board member, I believe that it is critical that the API School Board community join together to advance an agenda that reflects the diversity of the API community's needs and promotes curriculum which accurately represents the contribution and views of APIs.

I commend the APISBMA for its advocacy on behalf of API students. Your immense contributions to the API community are indeed recognized and valued. I wish you all the best as you continue this dialogue on API educational needs and priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael M. Honda".

Mike Honda  
Member of Congress  
Chair, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus