



E-Legislative Update

February 1, 2010

This is an exciting week for our community, as this Thursday, February 4, 2010 is [Asian Pacific American Legislative Day](#). Through the efforts of over twenty-five Asian Pacific Islander community groups from around the state, members of Washington State's Asian Pacific American community will come together at the state Capitol to participate in the legislative process.



We are in the fourth week of the legislative session and committee hearings in the House and Senate are still in progress. Tomorrow, February 2nd, is the final day that committees in the House of Representatives can hear House bills. This means that bills originating out of the House must be heard and voted out of the committee if they are to move forward in the legislative process. The Senate will continue to hear bills in policy committees for an additional week.

This is the time where you have an opportunity to testify on a bill. If you cannot appear before a committee, [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

Week Three Highlights:

Governor Gregoire held a press conference calling for national health reform. She stated that health care is now one third of Washington's budget. Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler stated that a record one million people in Washington will be uninsured due to the economic downturn. The Governor plans to discuss possible new revenue sources after the state revenue forecast on February 12th.

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Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

- Senate Early Learning and K-12 Committee held a discussion on education reform and SB 6630 updating references to the Washington assessment of student learning, SB 6629 convening a working group to make recommendations defining a basic education program for highly capable students and SB 6517 promoting early learning.
- Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee held a public hearing on SB 6467 authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- House Education Committee heard HB 2915 regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements, HB 3024 establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma, and HB 3026 regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws. The committee also voted out the following bills: SHB 1418 establishing a statewide dropout reengagement system and HB 2621 designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools. Both bills will be heard next in the education appropriation committees. In addition, the committee held a work session on Race to the Top, a program that allows Washington to receive additional federal funds for education if certain requirements are met.
- House Education Appropriations Committee heard numerous bills on local education levies and HB 2746 concerning a comprehensive K-12 education policy.
- House Ways & Means held a public hearing on HB 2731 creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.
- House Higher Education Committee held a work session on student financial assistance programs.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- Senate Health Care and Human Services Appropriations held a work session on the effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the health care and mental health systems.
- House Health and Human Services Appropriations held a work session on the effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the health care system in the 2009-11 biennium, and the impact on clients, providers, and to hear ways to continue providing services if less funding is available. Health services discussed include Apple Health for Kids, GAU, Basic Health Plan, Maternity Support Services, Family Planning, Interpretation Services and others.
- House Commerce and Labor heard HB 3062 making the governor the public employer of language access providers.

Highlights of legislative discussion in **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

- Senate Labor, Commerce and Consumer Protection heard SB 6575 concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy. In addition, the committee heard SB 6252 using credit history, education, and income for insurance purposes, a priority for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.
- Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee held public hearings on SB 6637 increasing the small business credit for the business and occupation tax and SB 6705 modifying business and occupation tax credits.
- House Community, Trade, and Economic Development heard HB 2983 creating the Washington global health technologies and product development competitiveness program and allowing certain tax credits for program contributions.
- House General Government Appropriations heard HB 1096 enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.
- House Ways and Means heard a work session on HB 1360 concerning funding for infrastructure that supports dense, affordable development in transit-oriented areas.

- House Finance Committee held a public hearing on HB 2912 which dedicates a portion of the revenue from stadium-related taxes to the Pioneer Square International District Community and Preservation and Development Authority.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the area of **IMMIGRATION**:

- The House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness heard HB 2942 offering human trafficking training for criminal justice and correctional personnel, and other public safety employees.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview highlighting a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you.

Education

Early Learning & K-12 Education

2/1/10 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6511](#) - Regarding gang and hate group activity at schools and school activities.
2. [SB 6512](#) - Increasing school safety.

Executive Session: [SB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform.

Education Appropriations

2/2/2010 8:00 am

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SHB 1418](#) - Establishing a statewide dropout reengagement system.

Education

2/2/10 10:00 am

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Possible Executive Session:

1. [HB 2834](#) - Regarding gang and hate group activity at schools and school activities.
2. [HB 2915](#) - Regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements.
3. [HB 3025](#) - Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.
4. [HB 3026](#) - Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws.
5. [HB 3035](#) - Regarding educator performance and innovation.
6. [HB 3038](#) - Regarding standards and accountability in education.

Early Learning & K-12 Education

2/3/10 8:00 am

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6553](#) - Regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements.
2. [SB 6798](#) - Implementing the recommendations of the achievement gap oversight and accountability committee.
3. [SB 6800](#) - Regarding discrimination in public schools.

Early Learning & K-12 Education

2/4/10 10:00 am

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6740](#) - Concerning a comprehensive K-12 education policy.
2. [SB 6655](#) - Regarding the running start program.
3. [SB 6778](#) - Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.

Health Care and Human Services

Health & Long-Term Care

2/1/10 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6710](#) - Concerning administration of the medicaid program.

Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection

2/2/10 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6726](#) - Making the governor the public employer of language access.

Economic Development**General Government Appropriations**

2/2/10 8:00 am

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 2641](#) - Expanding small business development centers.

Economic Development, Trade & Innovation

2/2/10 8:00 am

Senate Hearing Rm 3

J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session:

1. Overview of trade policy and state trade issues.
2. Trade relations:
 - a. Taiwan.
 - b. Korea.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

Information is current as of: January 28, 2010.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#)