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Tell Congress **NO** to Alien Land Laws and the Rounds Amendment

ACLU

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TELL CONGRESS: SAY 'NO' TO DISCRIMINATORY LAND LAWS

Dangerous laws are being introduced at the state and federal level right now that use "national security" as an excuse to discriminate against immigrants from China. In Florida, for example, Governor DeSantis has banned many Chinese immigrants from buying a house in much of the state – a move that is both unconstitutional and unfortunately, not new.

This type of "alien land law" should sound alarm bells for all of us. From the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, to the ongoing post-9/11 surveillance of Black and Brown communities – we've seen how such racist policies created under the guise of "national security" are racist and used to scapegoat entire communities.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself: Tell your Members of Congress to speak out against any law that falsely equates Chinese people with the Chinese government.



Reminder: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) put out a call for the public to tell Congress: Say **NO** to Discriminatory Land Laws. Tell your Members of Congress to speak out against any law that falsely equates Chinese people with the Chinese government." We cannot allow history to repeat itself. Take one easy step to tell Congress **NO** to discriminatory land laws at <https://bit.ly/3qRsFOh>

Breaking News: The National Fair Housing Alliance announced that it will file a lawsuit against the discriminatory alien land law in Florida during the APA Justice monthly meeting on September 11, 2023.

Correction: Scott Chang, an attorney for the National Fair Housing Alliance, said that NFHA and other organizations are still investigating and are likely to file a lawsuit against the discriminatory alien land law in Florida during the APA Justice monthly meeting on September 11, 2023

1. Call for Action by Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC



Advancing Justice | AAJC is also urging the public to join the opposition against Senate Amendment 813 otherwise known as the “Rounds Amendment” and say **NO** to this discriminatory land law. Follow the [link here](#) to voice your concerns to Congress. Additional resources on discriminatory land laws can also [be found here](#).

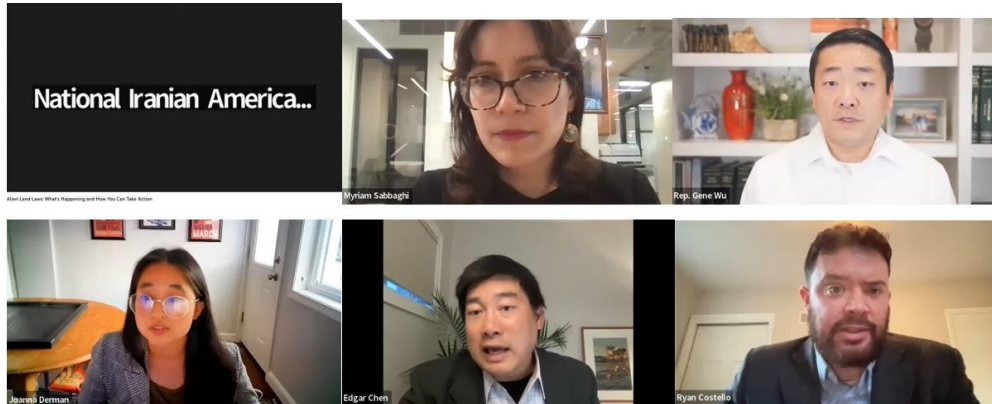
The U.S. has seen a resurgence of discriminatory land laws introduced and enacted in states across the country! Similar legislation has also been proposed in Congress and the latest example is the Senate Amendment 813 which has been included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024.

Introduced by Sen. **Mike Rounds** (R-ND), the provision would effectively prohibit foreign nationals from China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran from owning agricultural land in the United States. It would require the President to block specific types of transactions based on recommendations from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). There are currently no exceptions for visa holders and there is a high standard for a waiver which has to be granted by the President of the United States. The good news is that there is still time to prevent the Rounds amendment from being formally adopted into law.

Call your member of Congress and urge them to strike Senate Amendment 813 from the final version of the NDAA.

When you talk with your elected official(s), let them know that you oppose continuing the legacy of discriminatory land laws. These types of discriminatory land laws have a long legacy in this country and single out citizens who otherwise have no connection to the actions of their governments, including the countries which have been deemed to be a “foreign adversary.” The amendment was adopted and subsequently included in the Senate version of the NDAA but coalition groups are currently applying pressure to strike out the amendment in conferencing. Help us win this fight!

2. National Iranian American Council (NIAC) Webinar



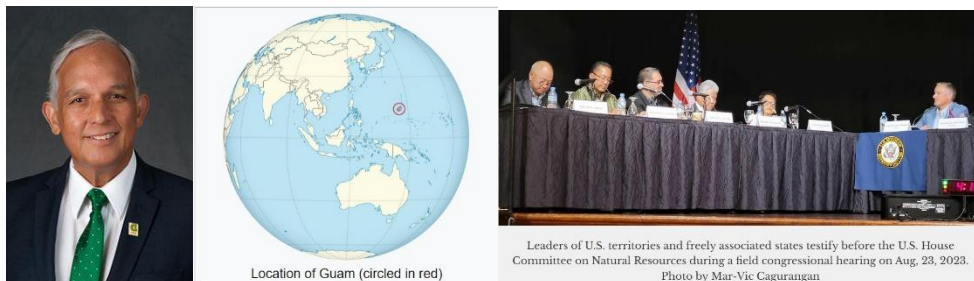
On September 12, 2023, the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) hosted a webinar titled "Alien Land Laws: What's Happening Now and How You Can Take Action." Texas State Representative **Gene Wu** 吳元之, who helped defeat Texas' alien land law proposal, was the featured speaker to offer his insights. The success in Texas, where grassroots efforts narrowly blocked a reckless alien land law bill, underscores the power of collective action.

This event was co-hosted by Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

The webinar covered an in-depth analysis of the alien land laws, strategies on how to engage and counter these measures, call to action on fighting the Rounds Amendment, and a platform to ask questions and share concerns during a Q&A segment.

Watch the NIAC webinar: <https://bit.ly/45R0EWr> (1:03:55)

A Voice from Guam - "Applying Leverage to Uncle Sam"



According to the *Pacific Island Times* on September 11, 2023, August was a busy month for federal travel to Guahan (Guam in Chamorro). The island was treated to the “scoping” meetings on the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System (EIAMDS) on Guam. This occurred over three days in early August. The event was well-managed and well-staffed. We had representatives of the Missile Defense Agency that included flag officers and devoted advocates for the system.

According to the report, "the organization of the events in poster sessions rather than townhall-style helped provide in-depth information but also avoided a public question and answer session.

"Criticisms of the planned EIAMDS were inevitable and on-point. The island is being offered a group of 20 'candidate' sites with little explanation about the actual uses of the sites and the intrusions they would make on our day-to-day lives. There was no explanation about which sites were just shooters or radar or sensor sites. There was no explanation about limitations made on uses of airspace and lands near the candidate sites.

"There was a lot of discussion about how the island needs protection from ostensible Chinese missiles and the estimation of potential conflict was rated from probable to inevitable. We were told that we live in a dangerous world in which Chinese initiatives are rearranging the geopolitical character of the region.

"At the end of the day, we weren't being asked about whether we agreed with this assessment or how much of our lives and island we were willing to leverage in order to deal with this ominous trend. We were asked to make comments on the 'environmental impacts' of the proposed activity. The basic decision is out of our hands as a colony of the United States.

"Many Guahan elected officials privately told me that 'leverage' is the key word. We shouldn't worry too much. We will be able to leverage this massive intrusion into our lives in order to benefit the island. Leverage is the key word.

"Paraphrasing Isaiah in the Bible, we can turn these Pentagon swords into Guam plowshares for our people. I could hardly wait for the opportunity to start leveraging the EIAMDS into hospitals, schools, jobs and businesses. Maybe we could throw in a little political empowerment. Not too much to ask for a vitally important colony which we were constantly told is part of the U.S. homeland. In the discourse over missile defense, Guam is part of America.

"The House Committee on Natural Resources held an oversight field hearing on August 24 at the Guam Hilton. The title of the hearing was 'Peace Through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S.-led Global Security.' Called to testify were Guam Gov. **Lou Leon Guerrero** and CNMI Gov. **Arnold Palacios**. The three freely associated states were represented by Foreign Ministers **Kaleb Udui Jr.** of Palau, **Ricky Cantero** of the Federated States of Micronesia and **Jack Ading** of the Marshall Islands.

"The purpose of the hearing was basically to build regional support for the U.S.-led Global Security efforts in this part of the world. This means that the Chinese threat across the board demands dramatic American action in order to stabilize the environment and continue U.S.

hegemony. The role of the Micronesian islands is key to this effort, especially the recently concluded financial agreements between the United States and the three freely associated states.

"In order to ensure approval of these agreements by Congress, the identified rationales are the threats posed by China and the necessity of U.S. dominance. This field hearing will be used as part of the corpus of justification for approval of the compacts. The robust financial arrangements that have already been concluded can be seen as the 'leverage' that our Micronesian neighbors have been able to exert in Washington D.C. When and how was the leverage going to be applied by the territories?

"Taking center stage were illegal fishing activities by the Chinese, descriptions of Chinese economic penetration in the CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) and Palau and allegations of bribery of officials in the FSM (Federated States of Micronesia).

"Leverage is when you point out to the other side the negative consequences of not going along with your plan. There was no leverage, just the usual typical kind of hat-in-hand request, which many Guam officials have done for decades.

"There is a rhetorical pattern that many island leaders can't seem to shake. They think that loving Uncle Sam is a viable strategy for getting respect and assistance. The use of World War II experiences was vital to this approach.

"But there is a lesson which everyone needs to know now. In the 21st century, asking Uncle Sam for assistance because we are poor, but loyal islanders neither attracts attention nor does it get rewarded. It is just old hat in Washington D.C. and actually has been since the time of Congressman **Antonio B. Won Pat**, who did use it effectively for a few years. But he had an audience in Congress that consisted of World War II veterans. That Congress does not exist anymore.

"The disruption caused by the ascendancy of China is real. It has political, economic and strategic dimensions. It is unfortunate that in response to Chinese economic penetration, the primary antidote that Washington D.C. can think of for us is an anti-missile defense system. It took former National Guard General **Rod Leon Guerrero** to remind us that diplomacy should come first and that the EIAMDS should be a last resort. It isn't exactly the message of the protestors, but it was closer than all of the other words uttered that day by our leaders."

Author of the report is Dr. **Robert Underwood**, Former President of the University of Guam and Former Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). He is also Commissioner to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Please send your feedback to him at anacletus2010@gmail.com.

Read the *Pacific Island Times* report: <https://bit.ly/48c2in2>

Asian American History - The AsianWeek Database Project



From 1979 to 2009, *AsianWeek* chronicled the growth and development of Asian Pacific America within American history.

Today, the *AsianWeek* Database Project brings back three decades of news, education, and entertainment surrounding the Asian American community.

You can rediscover the people and events documented in the historical pages of the *AsianWeek* newspaper and website.

Anyone can easily access this trove of information — for research, for reference, or to simply remember these important times in the community at: <https://www.asianweek.com/>.

In a beta version (there are typographical errors in the transcribed text that will be corrected in future versions), *AsianWeek* reported on "DOE's New Ombudsperson" on March 9, 2000.

According to the report, "**Jeremy Wu 胡善庆** faces a daunting task as the Energy Department's new ombudsperson, an office created as a result of a January report by the department's task force on racial profiling.

"He seeks to address the continuing problems within the department, especially among its Asian American staff, about the criminal prosecution of physicist **Wen Ho Lee 李文和**. Many Asian Americans have rallied to the defense of Lee, as allegations have been made that he was singled out simply because of his Chinese heritage.

"As a result, Wu says one of his goals is restore 'trust and faith through effective actions that would combat racial stereotyping or profiling and other unfair practices in the workplace, making the Energy Department 'a workplace of choice for not just Asian Americans but all Americans.'

In an exclusive phone interview with *AsianWeek* just weeks after taking office, Wu discussed his responsibilities as the person who must 'identify systemic issues; gain some understanding of systematic issues; and recommend to managers or Energy Secretary [**Bill Richardson**] directly policy changes to benefit all managers and employees.'"

The report was written by **Frank H. Wu** 吴华扬 (no relation to Jeremy Wu), an associate professor at Howard University Law School at that time. Today, he is President, Queen's College, City University of New York.

Jeremy Wu retired from the federal government and is Founder and Co-Organizer of APA Justice.

Dr. **Steven Chu** 朱棣文 served as the 12th Secretary of Energy under the Obama Administration from January 21, 2009, to April 22, 2013. He is the first person appointed to the U.S. Cabinet after having won a Nobel Prize. He is also the second Chinese American to be a member of the U.S. Cabinet.

Bill Richardson passed away on September 1, 2023.

Read the beta version of the March 2000 *AsianWeek* report: <https://bit.ly/3sTvDf>

Statisticians in China Speak Up On Transparency of Chinese Government Data

The East is Read

Government statistics should be open to scholarly scrutiny: a deep data dive with Xu Xianchun

Three professors discuss the purpose and nature of Chinese government statistics at book reading



YUZHE HE, XIAYI DU, AND JIA YUXUAN
SEP 11, 2023

According to the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), a non-government think tank in Beijing, the decision on August 15, 2023, by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China to suspend the release of youth unemployment rates caught many by surprise. The NBS spokesperson's explanation for this decision, which cited differing public opinions on the scope and methodology of statistical calculations, was met with sharp skepticism and stinging cynicism.

This development has reignited discussions about the government's transparency in statistical reporting. According to China's leading statisticians, while the NBS has made significant efforts to enhance the quality of statistical data, there remains a crucial need for China to draw lessons

from the statistical systems of many Western governments. These systems often feature vibrant and open debates between the government and scholars.

Statistical data is foundational for effective and sound economic choices, and the government should either make corrections or provide explanations when official figures are in doubt. The discrepancy between official figures and public perception is not uncommon, usually owing to people's predominant exposure to specific sectors of the economy. This highlights the importance of providing statistical breakdowns that can help mitigate personal biases and boost public acceptance. It is essential for statistical bureaus to tune into the actual needs of the public and the market, and remain responsive by offering clarity on statistical indicators.

A book reading event took place on June 18, 2023, nearly two months before the controversial NBS decision. Excerpts of the discussion by three academics are given below.



1. Wu Xiaoying 伍晓鹰, Research Professor of Economics at National School of Development and head of the Growth Lab

"It was a daunting challenge to transform an outdated national statistical system designed for a planned economy and under Soviet influences to align with international standards and integrate into the international market and society.

"National statistical data are public goods... While national statistical agencies produce and manage data with public resources, they are not and should not be the exclusive owners of statistical data.

"By reiterating that such data is a public good, we also encourage public scrutiny.

"Openness and competition are necessary to improve statistical data quality... the pivotal step is to welcome skepticism and recommendations from scholars at academic institutions and other government agencies.

"We should learn from the statistical system in many Western governments... Instead of complaining that the West dominates the rules, why can't we proactively participate in the rule-setting process?"

2. Huang Yiping 黄益平, Deputy Dean of the National School of Development and Director of the Institute of Digital Finance

"China's statistical data, especially the earlier records, is indeed in doubt.

"Many may not be aware of the efforts statistical departments have taken to enhance data

quality.

"The NBS has made tremendous efforts to improve the quality of statistical data... This skepticism isn't baseless – manipulation of data did happen in the past.

"As someone who uses statistical data on a regular basis, I sometimes find a significant discrepancy between official figures and our intuitive perceptions.

"Despite differences between personal perceptions and the statistical data, the official figures are not necessarily faulty.

"It's crucial to tune into what the public and the market really need. Statistics bureaus should ramp up their communication efforts with both groups to clarify data and indicators.

"Even if such insights don't resonate with everyone, they can still significantly boost public comprehension and acceptance of data."

3. Xu Xianchun 许宪春, Distinguished Fellow at National School of Development of Peking University

"If everyone publicly praises statistical work but privately criticizes the accuracy of the data, that would be unfortunate. I think different voices should be earnestly listened to to identify areas of concern and make necessary improvements.

"Whether it's for analyzing economic and social development trends, policy formulation, or academic research, government statistical data holds immense significance.

"If data discrepancies are found, regional statistical departments cannot alter them; corrections must be made at the enterprise level."

Read the CCG report: <https://bit.ly/48ckCwa>

News and Activities for The Communities

APA Justice Community Calendar



APA Justice has launched a Community Calendar to track events and activities of potential interest to the Asian Pacific American and academic communities. Options are available to look at a monthly, weekly, or a daily calendar, as well as an agenda view with event details. You can find the Community Calendar on the front page of the APA Justice website at <https://www.apajustice.org/>.

1. National Science Foundation Listening Sessions

ACTION ITEM

The National Science Foundation is [organizing two listening sessions](#) on the implementation of the Framework for Federal Scientific Integrity Policy and Practice developed by the National Science and Technology Council. The listening sessions, open to the public, aim to collect information perspectives to inform “(1) Federal agencies' finalization of Scientific Integrity Policies, in response to the Framework and its implementation memorandum from the Office of Science and Technology Policy; (2) Federal agency processes, procedures, and practices related to scientific integrity; and (3) other elements of Federal implementation of the Framework.” The sessions will take place Friday, September 15, 1–3 p.m. ET and Wednesday, September 20, 5–7 p.m. ET. [Register for the sessions in advance.](#)

According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Science Foundation will host two listening sessions on the implementation of the [Framework for Federal Scientific Integrity Policy and Practice](#) developed by the National Science and Technology Council. The listening sessions, open to the public, aim to collect information perspectives to inform “(1) Federal agencies' finalization of Scientific Integrity Policies, in response to the Framework and its [implementation memorandum from the Office of Science](#)

[and Technology Policy](#); (2) Federal agency processes, procedures, and practices related to scientific integrity; and (3) other elements of Federal implementation of the Framework.” The sessions will take place Friday, September 15, 1–3 p.m. ET and Wednesday, September 20, 5–7 p.m. ET. Register for the sessions: <https://bit.ly/3Pjuplo>.

The event is posted in the APA Justice Community Calendar: <https://bit.ly/45KGyga>

2. Teachers Workshop - Teaching Asian American Narratives through Literature



WHAT: 2023 Teachers Workshop "Teaching Asian American Narratives through Literature"

WHEN: September 27, 2023, 3:30pm PT/6:30 pm ET

HOST: 1990 Institute

EVENT DETAILS: <https://bit.ly/48c4g6K>

PRESS KIT: <https://bit.ly/466d2S2>

TARGET GRADES: 6-12

DESCRIPTION: Expert speakers on this subject to help teachers bring a nuanced dialogue on intersectional perspectives into classroom discussions. In particular, we want to encourage teachers to bring oft-missing Asian American perspectives to their students and encourage more inclusive community building and understanding.

The event is posted in the APA Justice Community Calendar: <https://bit.ly/45KGyga>.

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