

**Kate Brown**  
Governor



**Oregon Commission on  
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OCAPIA Testimony in Support of HB 4009  
Senate Committee on Rules, HR B, 2/18/16, 3 pm

Chair Rosenbaum, Vice Chair Ferrioli, and Senators Beyer, Boquist, and Burdick:

The Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs supports the bill presented to you today that would honor Minoru Yasui as the great civil rights hero and declaring March 28<sup>th</sup> Minoru Yasui day.

OCAPIA has consistently advocated for the voices and histories of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to be heard through state policy and education. Minoru Yasui is one of the most highly honored leaders in our state and yet very few school children and fewer adults have learned about his civil rights legacy in our state. This bill is an opportunity to educate many Oregonians on the legacy Japanese Americans and their contributions to ensuring that civil rights are extended to all Oregonians.

The President Barak Obama awarded Minoru Yasui with the presidential Medal of Freedom, saying "it is a call to our national conscience, a reminder of our enduring obligation to be the land of the free and home of the brave, an America worthy of his sacrifices". The legacy of social and civil disobedience that includes Japanese Americans is a keystone to Oregon's great history. Japanese Americans have made considerable contributions to this state despite many having to endure internment camps and solitary confinement like Minoru Yasui.

The Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs joins in solidarity with the many other civil rights heroes in Oregon's past and the Japanese American community to celebrate the legacy of Minoru Yasui.

We encourage you to positively consider of HB 4009.

Mari Watanabe, Chair  
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

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Pacific Islander Affairs**

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