



A D V A N C I N G E Q U A L I T Y

**Address WWII Relocation and Internment of Japanese Latin Americans:
Support and Pass the
Commission on Wartime Relocation
and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act
HR 662 and S 381**

April 24, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Asian American Justice Center, the nation's premier organization working to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation, we write to express our strong support of HR 662 and S 381 "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act." The Bill would establish a nine-member commission to investigate the World War II-era relocation, internment, and deportation of Latin Americans of Japanese descent by the U.S. government and recommend appropriate remedies.

The U.S. government uprooted approximately 2,300 men, women and children of Japanese descent from their homes in thirteen Latin American countries and detained them in internment camps in the United States. Over 800 of these individuals were deported to Japan in prisoner exchanges. While the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 honorably addressed the plight of Japanese Americans and provided compensation payments to former internees pursuant to Executive Order 9066, it did not bring relief for Japanese Latin Americans who were abducted and unlawfully interned in the United States.

This chapter in our history needs to be fully and properly investigated so that Congress and the American people can understand what happened, and so that we can prevent these grave injustices from ever occurring again. This Bill would be an important step in further bringing this regrettable chapter in American history to a close. We believe that this Bill deserves your support and urge you to work for its enactment.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Pang Houa Moua, Community Education Manager at 202-296-2300, x. 122 or at pmoua@advancingequality.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen K. Narasaki".

Karen K. Narasaki
President and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent A. Eng".

Vincent A. Eng
Deputy Director