



KALEO O AAPI
ASIAN AMERICANS
— AND —
PACIFIC ISLANDERS



JULY 25TH, 2008

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OBAMA CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCES HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

HONOLULU, HAWAII – Senator Barack Obama’s Campaign for Change announced on July 22, 2008 the formation of its general election campaign Hawaii Congressional Leadership Team, which will serve as an informal advisory council to Senator Obama on issues of importance to the people of Hawaii. The Congressional Leadership Team includes State Chairs Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii’s senior member of the House of Representatives, Senator Dan Inouye, Senator Daniel Akaka, and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono.

The Congressional Leadership Team released the following joint statement:

“We consider Obama to be our native son and his message of change in Washington, DC has clearly resonated with the people of Hawaii. In the coming weeks we will be building our grassroots movement for change in Hawaii because we believe the voters of Hawaii deserve to hear what is at stake in this election. Hawaii cannot afford four more years of the failed Bush policies that John McCain is offering... Together, as a united team, we will make Hawaii proud and send Obama to Washington, DC as the next President of the United States.”



SPOTLIGHT CHRISTOPHER LU

One of our dedicated and influential staff members from Obama for America, Chris Lu, has served as the legislative director for Senator Barack Obama since he came to the U.S. Senate in 2005. As the legislative director, Chris not only supervises the 15-person legislative staff, but also oversees the drafting of all legislation and floor speeches, helps devise communications strategy, and advises the Senator on all votes and policy decisions.

During the presidential campaign, Chris has been an advisor to the campaign's policy staff and is one of the most senior Asian Americans in the Obama operation. He also served as the campaign's communications director for the Delaware primary.

Prior to joining Senator Obama's staff, Chris spent eight years as the deputy chief counsel for the Democratic staff of the House Government Reform Committee, where he conducted several high-profile investigations, including investigations into campaign fundraising during the 1996 presidential election, the collapse of Enron, and substandard nursing home conditions.



During the 2004 general election, Chris was a special advisor for communications to the Kerry-Edwards campaign, where he coordinated the activities of 9/11 families supporting the campaign.

Chris is a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was a classmate of Obama's. Following graduation, he was a law clerk to a federal court of appeals judge. He then spent four and a half years as a litigator at Sidley & Austin in Washington, D.C.

He is married to Katie Thomson, and in his free time, he has run 17 marathons.



LISTENING TO AMERICA: CHANGE MANY HAVE BELIEVED IN

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH — TAMPA BAY, FL

Maya Soetoro-Ng, Senator Obama's sister, spoke at the "Women for Obama" reception, where she shared personal stories about her brother and his influence on her life. Soetoro-Ng's involvement inspiration, charm, and identity as an Asian American has helped to bring attention to Senator Obama's rich and diverse heritage, values, and contributions to his family.



The Daily Kos article, "Maya Stumps for Obama in Florida," features the following excerpts from local Florida press that praise Soetoro-Ng's contribution to the campaign in helping voters have a more personal glimpse of Senator Obama's commitment to his family.

From The Herald Tribune

Maya Soetoro-Ng walked into a cafe in Ybor City on Thursday afternoon and hugged each reporter and photographer waiting for her. They were strangers, but no matter. She gets the hugging thing from her mother Ann, she explained. Her big brother Barack Obama acquired other traits -- like their mother's sense of calm. Soetoro-Ng, the Hawaiian half sister of the Democratic presidential nominee, is embarking on a mission few besides Obama himself could pull off. She wants people to know how Obama grew up, hoping that will help voters understand the person he is today.

From The Tampa Tribune

Barack Obama is a dedicated feminist who "lives surrounded by women," his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, told a mostly female crowd at a Women For Obama event in downtown Tampa on Thursday. Soetoro-Ng told the crowd that Obama helped rear her and now is rearing two daughters. "Those girls are what make him a feminist," she said.

She's campaigning for him during her summer break from her job as a high school teacher and university lecturer in Hawaii, and made her first visit to Florida for stops in Tampa's Mise en Place restaurant Thursday and today in Largo, where she will meet with a group of educators. Her mission with the campaign clearly is to help reconcile Obama with women who supported Hillary Rodham Clinton in the primary race, and may be reluctant to transfer their loyalty, or at least their enthusiasm, to him.

"I want to focus a little bit on women because that's one of the reasons I'm here is to remind women that he is their advocate," she told the crowd. "I want to tell you about some of the strong women in our lives.

"I really want you to be able to get to know the man."

She did that largely by telling family stories.

From TampaBay.com

Maya Soetoro-Ng leaves no doubt she's a proud kid sister.

But hers isn't just any brother.

Thursday evening at Mise En Place restaurant, she was on a mission to reveal the softer side of Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, to help him woo women voters, especially those who have expressed bitter resentment over Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's defeat in the long primary fight.

She says he's a feminist, who bought her the first women's health/sex ed book she ever read, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. And he helped her "figure out which boys to discard."

Joined by state Sen. Arthenia Joyner and former state Democratic Party executive director Ana Cruz, both Clinton-turned-Obama supporters, Soetoro-Ng talked to the crowd as if it were composed of her closest girlfriends.

To see the full Daily Kos article and a video of Soetoro-Ng's inspirational talk at the "Women for Obama" reception, check out <http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/7/18/12145/0078>.

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH — SUNDAY, JULY 27TH, 2008

Platform Meetings are being held throughout the country as part of the Democratic National Committee and Obama for America's "Listening to America: The Democratic Platform for Change." The Platform Meetings which are taking place in all 50 states, provide a chance for Americans to engage in discussion over ideas, policy initiatives, and other issues of interest to their communities and families. Results from these meetings will be incorporated in the development of the Democratic National Platform.

To help shape the Democratic Party Platform and find a Platform Meeting near you, visit <http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/listening/>.

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH, 2008

The National AAPI/South Asian Conference Call on Platform for Change had a remarkable turnout with almost 120 people registered for the call and 42 responses to the online survey. Hosted by Asian Americans for Obama, South Asians for Obama, and APA for Progress, the National Call provided the opportunity for participants to express their ideas, positions, and recommendations on immigration, healthcare, civil rights, education, the economy, and other relevant issues impacting AAPI communities throughout the country. The results of the National Call will be incorporated into the formal process that will culminate in the adoption of the platform at the Democratic Convention in August. The National Call was a great start in what will become an important policy document that will bring awareness and action from Senator Obama and the Democratic Party on AAPI issues for the next four years and beyond.

To view specific position statements and to participate in the platform please visit <http://platform.apaforobama.com/>.

SUNDAY, JULY, 20, 2008 — SAN FRANCISCO, CA

A. Marisa Chun, member of Senator Obama's National Finance Committee and the AAPI Leadership Council helped to organize a successful fundraiser that was hosted by the Northern California Finance Committee. The event honored Senator Obama's campaign manager, David Plouffe.



CONTINUING TO BUILD MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE

SUNDAY, JULY 27TH, 2008
CHICAGO, IL

Senator Obama will appear at the UNITY: Journalists of Color Convention, a gathering that will include members of the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Native American Journalists Association, as well as journalists from CNN and TIME Magazine.

“We are honored to have Senator Obama join us at UNITY, especially considering his busy schedule,” said Bryan Monroe, UNITY Convention Chair and Vice President and Editorial Director, Ebony and Jet magazines in Chicago. “It reaffirms the importance and respect of journalists of color in this year’s election process.” The event is sure to draw a lot of attention, as this will likely be Senator Obama’s first appearance after returning from his international trip to Europe and the Middle East.

To find out more information about UNITY Convention and Senator Obama’s appearance at the Convention, please visit <http://www.unityjournalists.org/>.



TUESDAY, JULY 29TH, 2008
WASHINGTON, DC



The Asian American Finance Committee DNC AAPI Leadership Council, South Asian Leadership Council, and Indo American Leadership Council will host a luncheon reception with Senator Obama benefiting the Obama Victory Fund. The event will feature prominent elected officials and community leaders who have helped to shape our

The event is from Noon to 2 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m.) at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW. Seats start at \$1,000 with a limited number of seats for as low as \$500. RSVP is required by Sunday, July 27, and can be done online at <http://my.barackobama.com/AAFCDCJuly29>.



For more information, please contact Gautam Raghavan at 202.427.1392 or RaghavanG@dnc.org Shomik Dutta at 202.543.4673 or SDutta@barackobama.com.

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