Asian Americans Gather to Celebrate Georgia's Inaugural Fred Korematsu Day at the Capitol
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlanta, GA -- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) will gather at the State Capitol on February 6, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate the 2014 AAPI Legislative Day and Georgia's inaugural Fred Korematsu Day. The event was rescheduled from its original date on January 30, 2014, due to the snowstorm that hit Atlanta.

This day will highlight issues important to Georgia's diverse AAPI communities, and raise awareness of Fred Korematsu, one of our country's greatest civil rights heroes. During World War II, Korematsu, an American citizen, was prosecuted for conscientiously refusing to report to a Japanese American internment camp. Originally upheld by the Supreme Court, his unlawful conviction was finally vacated over 40 years later through the efforts of a dedicated legal team. Korematsu said of his vindication: "I would like to see the government admit that they were wrong and do something about it so this will never happen again to any American citizen of any race, creed, or color." He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, our nation's highest civilian honor.

The event will draw over 150 participants from across the state. The day will convene with a photo with Governor Nathan Deal at the Capitol. Prominent speakers throughout the day include Karen Korematsu, the daughter of Fred Korematsu, who will share her father's story; GA State Senator Jason Carter; House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams; and GA State Representatives B.J. Pak, Pedro Marin and Brooks Coleman. The morning policy briefing will be moderated by Farooq Mughal (MS Global Partners) and Mike Vaquer (The Vaquer Firm). Senator Carter and Karen Korematsu will keynote the southern barbecue Luncheon.

Representative Pak will introduce the Resolution declaring January 30, 2014, to be Georgia's Inaugural Fred Korematsu Day, joining several other states across the country. In addition to Korematsu, champions from the AAPI community will be recognized by the Georgia General Assembly. They include Hyunjin Son, Gwinnett Teacher of the Year; Officer Dipa Patel, Georgia's first Indian American female peace officer; Dr. Yaseen Abubaker, Boardmember of the US Fund for UNICEF (SE Region) and founder of the SAF Foundation, a non-profit that assists disabled children; and Dr. Josephine Tan, Chair of Georgia's last Asian American Commission under Governor Sonny Perdue and Georgia Power's Asian Liaison. These champions serve all of Georgia's communities, and embody electoral issues that are vitally important to AAPIs: education, public safety, healthcare, business development and civil rights.

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Capitol. The Morning Policy Briefing and Luncheon will be held at the Floyd Veterans Memorial Building, the Floyd Room from 10:45 am - 2 p.m. The fiscal agent for the event is the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS), the largest non-profit AAPI service organization in the Southeast. For more program details, please see: www.AAPILegislativeDay-GA.com.