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Representing the communities of Cocyumbo, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Manhattan Boach, Marina del Rey, Mar Visto, Playa del Rey, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Venice, West Los Angeles and Westchester

February 18, 2003

Dr. Don Nakanishi UCLA Asian American Studies Center 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546

Dear Dr. Nakanishi:

As the inaugural Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, I am writing today to give my full support to the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Faculty Diversity Initiative.

California has become an increasingly diverse state. Over half of the state's population are ethnic minorities and a greater percentage are enrolling in our public education system. Our universities should reflect this change through research programs and curriculum. We must also encourage the employment of faculty who take interest in teaching about our ethnic communities.

Our public universities are essential to the future success of our state. We can only benefit by increasing diverse faculty to prepare the next generation of Californians. The four UCLA Ethnic Studies Organized Research Units are the ideal entities to meet this important challenge. I wholeheartedly support the UCLA Diversity Initiative.

Sincerely,

GEORGE NAKANO

Assemblymember, 53rd District

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