

Paulo Pontemayor is the Advisor for Government Relations and External Affairs for the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), a national health justice organization which influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.



Prior to working at APIAHF, Paulo worked as a Senior Legislative Assistant for U.S. Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (Guam-At Large), who served as the executive board secretary and chair of the Health Task Force for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). Paulo also managed the congresswoman's environmental and natural resources work on the House Committee on Natural Resources, where she was the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. Additionally, Paulo was responsible for her education, civil rights, immigration, women, children, seniors and family initiatives. While with the Congresswoman, Paulo helped usher in priorities important to the Asian Pacific Islander community in the development of historic health care reform legislation in the 111th Congress, which became law through working with the Congressional Tri-Caucus and national community organizations.

Previously, Paulo also served as an Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Fellow with U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-31), who currently is the highest ranking Latino in the House leadership. While with the Congressman he worked on education, housing, commerce and House Budget Committee issues. In the 110th Congress, Paulo helped manage the Congressman's priorities as part of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization, which were signed into law by President Bush.

Before moving to Washington, D.C., Paulo worked and managed campaigns in the Seattle area at the local and state level. He was also active with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community during his college years and early career with groups like the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation, Pacific Islander Partnerships in Education, the Filipino American Student Association, Micronesians Club, the University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs Student Advisory Board and the Associated Students of the University of Washington's Pacific Islander Student Commission, where he served as Director.

A former resident of Guam, Paulo graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a B.A. in American Ethnic Studies and Law, Societies and Justice, where he focused on minority communities' involvement in the political process. Paulo earned his Masters in Public Health (MPH), with a concentration in health policy at the George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services, where he was named a health policy scholar and studied racial and ethnic health disparities.

Paulo was recently selected as a Bryce Harlow Foundation Fellow which awards outstanding individuals who are committed to practicing the art of advocacy with the highest level of integrity in 2011 and 2012. For his work on the Health Equity and Accountability Act Paulo was awarded the inaugural Families USA Health Equity Champion award in 2012 and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Health Braintrust Award for Outstanding Health Advocate in 2011.

