



Maxine Claire Abergas (SFSU 2021)

Ethnicity: Chinese

Place of Birth: Honolulu, HI

Party Affiliation: Republican

Highest Elected Position:

US Senate (1959-77)

Hiram Leong Fong
(October 15, 1906-August 18, 2004)

Hiram was the seventh of eleven children of Chinese immigrant plantation workers. His birth name was Yau Leong Fong, which he later changed to Hiram Fong. Hiram was Hawaii's first US senator and in 1964, became the first APIA to receive the Republican Party's delegate votes to be nominated for president of the United States. Before Hiram became senator, he testified in 1950 in favor of Hawaiian statehood. (Hawaii became the fiftieth state in 1959.) He supported the Vietnam War, civil and voting rights legislation, and immigration reform. Among the many legislations Hiram supported and passed while in office was the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 that enabled more Asians to immigrate to the United States.