



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **BOE Chairman Jerome Horton Tells Asian Small Business Expo in Los Angeles to Build Bridges to the Future**

*Los Angeles* –Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman, Jerome E. Horton welcomed more than 500 business owners and entrepreneurs to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Asian Small Business Exposition on Saturday, September 21, 2013, encouraging them, “to build bridges of friendship and trust to all areas of the state and the world.”

The Exposition, which gathers Asian business owners from a wide sector of L.A. County, including the Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, and Filipino business communities, is a collaborative effort to break down cultural barriers and expose each other to business opportunities.

The Exposition is of particular interest to the State Board of Equalization because its efforts underscore the importance of small business in putting Californians back to work while enriching the quality of urban life.



Many entrepreneurs took the opportunity to speak with the Chairman and shared their new business ventures and ideas with him, particularly after hearing his remarks.

“Power is measured by one’s ability to empower others,” said Chairman Horton. “That means, in order to be successful, you must operate outside of the box and on the cutting edge.”

There are roughly 183,000 Asian-owned businesses in the county, employing almost 356,300 employees, generating more than \$10.3 million dollars in payroll each year.

Horton said the BOE plays an important role in business growth by helping set up 192,000 small businesses last year. He also reminded them that the California Department of General Services did \$15 million dollars-worth of contracts with small business last year.

Before leaving, the Asian business community awarded Mr. Horton a special certificate thanking him for his support.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization's Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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