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Asian Groups Respond on Liu

By [SUMATHI REDDY](#)

A number of prominent Asian-American organizations and civic leaders have joined forces to address community concerns that have surfaced since the criminal investigation into city Comptroller [John Liu](#)'s campaign financing.

Called the Asian American Civic Alliance, the group intends to start a legal referral hotline for individuals or businesses contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other government agencies in connection with the continuing investigation into Mr. Liu's fund-raising operation.

They will also hold workshops to educate Asian-Americans on campaign-finance laws, said Cao K. O, executive director of the Asian American Federation.

"There are more people contributing to political campaigns than ever before so we want to make sure that what's happening with the investigation of campaign contributions will not discourage participation," he said.

"People are anxious, people are concerned," he added.

Last month, federal authorities arrested a Liu fund-raiser on charges he illegally funneled \$16,000 into the comptroller's campaign coffers. The investigation into Mr. Liu's fund-raising operation is ongoing and it is unclear whether there will be additional arrests.

Mr. Liu has denied any wrongdoing and has said repeatedly his campaign has acted properly at all times.

Kevin Kong, an attorney, said that the federal investigation has had a "chilling effect" on donors during a critical time, and that some community members are now afraid to give political donations.

There have also been concerns about people being questioned by authorities because of their donations. "People are feeling like, 'What are the criteria for this?'" said Christopher Kui, executive director of Asian Americans for Equality.

George Arzt, a spokesman for the Liu campaign, said it hasn't noticed reluctance among Asian Americans to make donations.

"Fund raising still continues," he said. "There are people still giving."

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