

GOP: On the Right Side of History



First Asian-American U.S. Senator

Hiram Leong Fong, born Yau Leong Fong, was an American businessman and politician from Hawaii. He is most notable for his service as a Republican United States Senator from 1959 to 1977, and for being the first Asian American and Chinese American to be elected as such. In 1964, Fong became the first Asian American to run for his party's nomination for President of the United States. To date, he is the only Republican to ever hold a Senate seat from Hawaii and was the only Asian American to seek the presidential nomination of the Republican Party until Bobby Jindal in the 2016 primaries.

The same year Hiram Fong founded his law office, he entered elected political life as a member of the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives where he became Speaker of the House from 1948 to 1954. During this time, he was one of the foremost leaders in the fight to make Hawaii a state.

Fong was elected to the U.S. Senate immediately after Hawaii became the 50th State.