

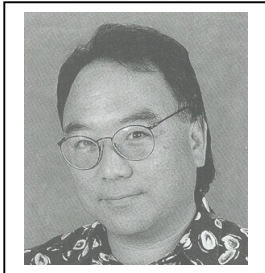
JACL HAWAII

Leading the Way!

**THE LATE CHRIS IJIMA AND ERIC
YAMAMOTO**

**TO BE HONORED AT AUGUST 4, 2006
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

This year, JACL Hawai'i honors two outstanding legal educators, Professor Eric Yamamoto, and the late Professor Chris Ijima, for their contributions to JACL and its civil rights mission, and for inspiring a new generation of progressive students through their teaching.



Born and raised in Hawai'i, **ERIC YAMAMOTO** is a nationally-recognized law professor at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. He is known for his legal work and scholarship on civil rights and racial justice, with an emphasis

on reparations for historic injustice. In 1984 he served as coram nobis co-counsel to Fred Korematsu in the successful reopening the infamous WWII Japanese American internment case, *Korematsu v. U.S.*, which led to reparations. He represented Manuel Fragante in his accent discrimination case to the U.S. Supreme Court and Alice Aiwahi in her successful Hawaiian Homelands breach of trust class action resulting in a state reparations settlement of \$600 million. He has written many amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court, most recently as co-author in the *Gutter v. Michigan* affirmative action case and the *Rasul v. Bush* post-9/11 Guantanamo Bay mass detention case.

Professor Yamamoto's extensive legal scholarship includes his first book on Interracial Justice (conflict and reconciliation among racial communities), which received the Gustavus Meyers Award for Outstanding Books on Social Justice for 2000. His second book, *Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment*, co-authored with Chon, Izumi, Kang and Wu, is receiving national attention in light of its relevance to the post-September 11th tension between national security and civil liberties in America. His recent related article, "White(House) Lies: Why the Public Must Compel the Courts to Hold the President Accountable for National

activists, scholars and concerned Americans.

In 2001 Professor Yamamoto was awarded the Haywood Burns Chair in Civil Rights for New York, where he taught and lectured, and in 2000 he received the Rockefeller Foundation's prestigious Residency Fellowship for international justice scholars in Italy. In 1999 he taught as a visiting professor at his alma mater, Boalt Hall Law School, University of California at Berkeley.

Professor Yamamoto has received seven outstanding law teaching awards, including the University of Hawai'i's highest award, the 2005 Regents Medal for Teaching Excellence, and the Society of American Law Teachers' nation-wide award as Outstanding Law Teacher for 2005. He has also received numerous awards for his work on civil rights and social justice, including the 2004 Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink Award for Social Justice. In his work outside the classroom, he helps train law students and new lawyers interested in social justice. He is a founding member of the Equal Justice Society and has been a member of the Steering Committee of the Campaign to Restore Civil Rights. He speaks regularly across the country and internationally on issues of racial reconciliation, reparations, national security and civil liberties. He is a proud member of the JACL Honolulu Chapter.



CHRIS IJIMA was raised in New York City by activist parents. His father, Takeru, served in the famous 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team and his mother, Kazu, was in an internment camp during World War II. Upon

graduation from Columbia University in 1969, he participated in the antiwar movement and was a key figure in the nascent Asian American movement. Chris first became widely known for expressing his commitment to social justice through his songwriting and singing. In the early 1970s, "Yellow Pearl" - a trio consisting of Chris, Joanne Nobuko Miyamoto, and "Charlie" Chin - toured the country singing about Asian American identity while encompassing the struggles of minorities everywhere.



Yamamoto & Iijima To Be Honored, continued.

The trio recorded "A Grain of Sand: Music for the Struggle by Asians in America" as well as other albums. They performed on numerous college campuses and appeared on the Mike Douglas Show with John Lennon and Yoko Ono in 1972.

Professor Iijima graduated at the top of his class at New York Law School, where he was an editor of the Law Review. After clerking for a federal judge and working in a New York law firm, he returned to his love of teaching and social justice work as a faculty member at New York University in the Lawyering Program, and then at Western New England Law School. Professor Iijima was invited to join the faculty of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa in 1998 and he became a tenured associate professor in 2001.

Professor Iijima was particularly loved and admired for his work as director of the Law School's unique Pre-Admission Program. The Pre-Admission Program, established in 1975, admits and supports students from historically underserved communities with great promise as lawyers and community leaders. Professor Iijima was an inspiring, challenging, and greatly loved teacher in his role as the director of the Pre-Admission Program, as well as in the other legal subjects he taught. The Law School students and faculty voted him the Outstanding Professor of the Year in 2000 and he was a 2001 recipient of the Board of Regents' Excellence in Teaching Award.

Professor Iijima wrote much-cited law review articles addressing the issues he sang and wrote about years earlier. In addition to his teaching, mentoring, and scholarly activities, He served on the board of directors of Na Loio and of the Society of American Law Teachers, and on the Commission on Equal Access to Justice, appointed by the Hawai'i Supreme Court, and the Special Advisory Committee on Diversity of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. Professor Iijima was a proud member of the JACL Honolulu Chapter, was the featured speaker at the chapter's 2003 Annual Day of Remembrance, and was a guest speaker at the 2003 JACL Board of Directors' retreat.

Professor Iijima is survived by his wife, Jane Dickson, his sons, Alan and Christopher, his parents, Kazu and Takeru, and his sister, Lynne.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING BANQUET FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2006 JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII MANOA BALLROOM

5:30 p.m.

Annual General Membership Meeting

6:45 p.m.

*Installation of Officers & Directors
Recognition of JACL Scholarship Winners
Dinner and Awards Presentation to follow*

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

SILENT AUCTION
to benefit JACL Scholarship Fund

Cost: JACL Members \$50,
non-members \$60,
Table Sponsor (10 guests), \$1,500

For more information contact:
Mark Yabui, 542-7445 or
markyabui@yahoo.com.


Invitations will be mailed in June 2006.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME . . .

JACL is soliciting silent auction items for its annual Membership Meeting Banquet on August 4, 2006.

If you would like to donate a silent auction item, please contact Sean Ibara by phone at (808) 258-1721 or e-mail at seanibar@hawaii.edu no later than **JULY 21, 2006.**

Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the JACL Hawaii Scholarship Fund.





You can contribute! *The JACL Nominations Committee seeks nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2006-08 term. Nominees must be members of the JACL Honolulu Chapter. Interested persons should contact Kalene Shim Sakamoto by **JUNE 30, 2006**, at 228-1199 (cell), or via e-mail at kalenesakamoto@yahoo.com.*

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* Past President of JACL Hawai'i

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



With my term as your President ending in August 2006, when new officers and directors will be installed at the annual meeting, I write this last President's report with pride at the progress we have made as a chapter, but with some regret as there is still much more work to be done. Our local chapter is an all-volunteer organization, without any organizational staff or office, and depends on our directors, committees, and members for all our activities. During my two-year term as your President, I have come to know and work alongside many of you who have been active volunteers. I am humbled by and deeply appreciate your commitment to our chapter and its important work.

I am pleased to report that in January 2006, an energetic young new crop of directors, Shawn Benton, Kirsha Durante, Sean Ibara, Summer Kupau, Jan Muranaka Boivin, Trisha Nakamura, were elected to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. These new directors, some of whom were taught and mentored by our 2006 JACL Distinguished Service Awardees Eric Yamamoto and the late Chris Iijima, have energized our chapter by their active service on various JACL committees. A special thank you to Jan Muranaka Boivin for taking over compilation of our JACL newsletter after the departure of Sandy Hiraoka. Former director Benjamin Kudo continues to serve as our Legal Counsel. Former directors William Kaneko, Clayton Ikei, and Alan Murakami continue to assist the Board by serving as Advisors on the newly created JACL Board of Advisors, along with Colbert Matsumoto and Allicyn Hikida Tasaka. All of the Advisors are Past-Presidents of JACL Honolulu Chapter.

I am pleased to report that our annual JACL Day of Remembrance (DOR) held on February 20, 2006, and the "Fortunate Exception: Hawai'i and Internment of Japanese Americans During WWII" event at Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i which we co-sponsored on May 10, 2006, were well-attended, moving, and informative events. Thanks to all the members who attended these events, and those who helped to ensure the success of these events. Mahalo to Education Committee members Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, Clement Bautista, Brian Niiya, Ken Akinaka, Pam Funai, Yoshie Tanabe, and Randy Gomabon for all of their hard work in planning the DOR event.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONTINUED.

Many thanks to our DOR co-sponsors, the University of Hawai'i Office of Multicultural Student Services, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Organization for Chinese Americans, and the Interfaith Alliance of Hawai'i. I hope that all of you will join us for the 2006 Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) on the evening of August 4, 2006, where we will have a short business meeting followed by installation of new officers and directors, recognition of the 2006 JACL local scholarship winners, and presentation of the 2006 JACL Distinguished Service Award to Professor Eric Yamamoto and the late Professor Chris Iijima. As the AGMM dinner is also our chapter's main fundraising event for the year, to both replenish our local scholarship fund and generate revenue for the chapter as a whole, I urge all of you to attend, and perhaps even get your employer or business contacts to buy a table as Corporate Table Sponsor. While JACL membership dues may be on the higher side, our local chapter actually only receives less than 10 percent of the dues that you pay, so we must fundraise locally to sustain the chapter and all of our activities.

Finally, on the legislative front, spearheaded by Legal Defense and Advocacy Committee Co-chairs Shawn Benton and Trisha Nakamura, JACL Honolulu took an active and visible role during the 2006 session of the Hawai'i State Legislature, by supporting and opposing various bills through written and oral testimony. JACL supported the following bills: HB 2779 HD 1 providing a cause of action for persons who are denied language access when seeking services from State or County funded programs, SB 2133 SD 2 allowing placenta to be released to mothers and families after birth to accommodate Native Hawaiian and Filipino religious and cultural practices, and HB1233 HD1 clarifying that all people

Are protected from discrimination in public accommodations regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. JACL opposed the following bills: SB2260 requiring a 30-years-to-life sentence for habitually violent felons as it was a harsh, inefficient and costly measure with disparate impact on Native Hawaiians, SB2246 proposing an amendment relating to sexual assault to the Bill of Rights of the Hawai'i Constitution as it disturbingly weakened the Bill of Rights in response to a court decision, SB2260 requiring 30-years-to-life incarceration for habitually violent felons as it was an extremely harsh, inefficient and costly measure which would disparately impact minority communities in Hawai'i, and HB2299 requiring a lower standard of compliance by police executing a search warrant and abolishing the requirement that police make a reasonable effort to allow an arrestee to make a phone call -- as greatly expanding the power of the government at the expense of individual rights.

The current climate of fear, nationally and locally, has led to increased encroachments upon individual rights in the name of security. In the midst of this systematic attack on civil rights and liberties, we in Hawai'i must not forget our State's strong tradition of tolerance and respect for the rights of minorities and marginalized groups, borne from the unique history of our State -- a dispossessed Hawaiian Nation in 1893, harsh plantation past in the early 20th century, oppressive martial law and World War II internment of over 2,000 Hawai'i citizens of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry, and the Communist witch hunts of local union leaders in the 1950s. We at JACL have many more battles to wage and fronts to protect, to preserve the civil and human rights of all peoples.

Aloha,
Karen T. Nakasone, President



Untold Stories: Remembering Honouliuli

By Taylour Chang

Taylour Chang is a local high school student currently working on a film about the World War II internment of German Americans in Hawai'i. Taylour shares her impressions of the Day of Remembrance ceremony, held on February 20, 2006.

As a student filmmaker, I am always searching for interesting stories. In the newspaper, I had read about the World War II internment camp at Honouliuli. Apparently, for a long time, it had been a forgotten part of our history. Later, I read that the Japanese American Citizens League was sponsoring an event called Honouliuli Revisited: Day of Remembrance. On February 20, 2006, I went to the event with my camera.

The event included various speakers who provided different perspectives of internment in Hawaii. In particular, Shozo Takahashi and Ramsay Hishinuma provided the Japanese perspectives, while Doris Nye provided a German perspective. I listened to their interesting stories. One story inspired me to make a film this summer. It was the story told by Mrs. Doris Nye about how her German family was interned. Mrs. Nye explained how, when she was a little girl, her parents were suddenly taken away. She and her sister were left alone, scared to death. Her story was moving, poignant, and dramatic.

I'm a junior in high school, so I had just learned about the internment of the Japanese during World War II. However, I had never heard of German internment before, and I was shocked to discover that the internment of people of German ancestry during World War II is an overlooked part of Hawaii's past. After the Day of Remembrance, I decided that my next film project would be on the German internment in Hawaii.

I told myself that, with my film, I would try to introduce the issue of German internment to other students. Recently, I have been developing a script for my film that depicts how a German family is affected by the internment. I hope to create a short period-piece feature, followed by a documentary. I am excited about filming this summer. I am grateful that I attended the Day of Remembrance. It reinforced the idea that history is important to understand and to remember. Significantly, it taught me that history is full of untold stories.



Panelists Shozo Takahashi, Doris Nye, and Ramsay Hishinuma view a slide show presentation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp by Jane Kurahara of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii



Attendees and panelists (seated in front row) before the event



Attendees perusing books about the internment at the book sales table after the event



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