JACL-Honolulu and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i present

A Decade After 9/11

Acknowledging the Harms, Learning the Lessons, & Shaping the Future

Saturday, September 10 • 10 am - 12 noon
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i

Please join us to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11 with a video presentation and speaker panel with Hakim Ouansafi (Muslim Association of Hawai‘i), Tom Coffman (author, The Island Edge of America) and Mari J. Matsuda (Professor of Law, William S. Richardson School of Law), facilitated by Ellen Godbey Carson (JACL member and attorney). The panel will explore the experiences of the Muslim American community in Hawai‘i, racial tensions during wartime, and current events related to social justice.

All are welcome. Admission is free; refreshments served. RSVP is not required, but we would appreciate it for a head count. Please email jaclhon@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

2011 Annual General Membership Meeting

Please join us for a dinner honoring

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka
& Alan Murakami

Wednesday, October 26
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i

Invitations will be mailed soon!
President’s Report

Dear Friends,

There has been much to think about and reflect upon this year.

- President Obama awarding the Medal of Honor to Japanese American WWII Veterans.
- The anniversary of Executive Order 9066.
- The scoping sessions by the National Park Service to consider the future of Honouliuli and the passage of our resolution on Honouliuli at the JACL National Convention.
- Governor Abercrombie signing civil unions into law.
- The tsunami impacting Japan and Hawaii.
- The death of Osama bin Laden and the rhetoric surrounding his death.

These large and small bits of present history compel us as individuals and collectively as the JACL to think of our role in Hawai‘i, the country, and perhaps the world. I will discuss some in my comments and others will be reported on in this newsletter. All issues serve as reminders that we must not be silent.

JACL member Kim Coco Iwamoto, upon accepting the Friends of Civil Rights Award, quoted Martin Luther King, Jr.—“In the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.” As JACL Honolulu we must provide a voice for social justice and human rights, especially when our friends are silenced. We continue to be mindful of our role and appreciative of your support. As always, we invite you to share your voice with us.

CIVIL UNIONS

I had the great honor of representing the Japanese American Citizens League at the signing of the civil unions bill. It was sweet seeing civil union advocates Tambry Young, Suzanne King and their daughter Shylar rejoice. It was marvelous to stand with our allies from the ACLU, Citizens for Equal Rights, Equality Hawaii, and the Pride Alliance as lesbian and gay couples gained access to the same benefits as heterosexual couples.

It was also bitter-sweet because more than a decade ago, the issue was equal access to marriage. Today, marriage is still denied to same-sex couples.

In 1993, the JACL stood at the forefront and spoke out in support of same-sex marriage. Members including Ellen Godbey Carson have a vision of marriage rights for same-sex couples. I offer that this vision remains and we will continue to speak when others can’t.

ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Prior to the Day of Remembrance, I phoned neighbor island members to provide advance notice of the Honouliuli Pilgrimage. From these conversations, I met a few internees. Members shared their deep connection to “camp”; amazingly, their stories had no bitterness. The fact that people were placed behind barbed wire spoke for itself. These brief conversations stay with me and remind me of why we as the Japanese American Citizens League defend civil and human rights.

The pilgrimage served as another reminder. The pilgrimage included seeing the floor of the mess hall and what were likely administrative buildings. The site was humid, hot, and mosquito-ridden. Photos were shown of what the site actually looked like with tents for prisoners of war and shacks for residents. One can barely imagine how the German
Hawai‘i Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony

Last October, President Obama awarded the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), the nation’s highest civilian award, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. A ceremony is being planned in Washington, DC to honor these veterans. Another ceremony will be held locally for those unable to travel to Washington. The Hawai‘i ceremony is tentatively planned for December 17 & 18. Information will be posted on our website as it becomes available, www.jaclhonolulu.org. For more information on the Washington ceremony, go to www.nationalveteransnetwork.com.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

SATURDAY, December 17
  10:00 or 10:30 am – Parade through Waikiki
  12:00 to 2:00 pm – CGM Banquet at the Hawai‘i Convention Center

SUNDAY, December 18
  Morning – service at Punchbowl to honor veterans who have already passed

* There will be a formal announcement following the approval of the CGM Events Joint Resolution by Congress.

Day of Remembrance in Kona

by Trisha Nakamura

About 25 Kona residents came together on February 26, 2011 to remember Executive Order 9066 at the Kealakekua Library. There, they viewed the film Caught in Between: What to Call Home in Times of War, by Lina Hoshino. The film explores connections between the anti-Japanese sentiment during World War II that led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans and the discrimination faced by Muslim Americans after September 11, 2001.

The event was planned by Kay Uno Kaneko, who is one of the founding members of the Honolulu Chapter. Kay’s family was interned at Amache. Her brother Edison Uno is credited with launching the redress movement among the Japanese American community.

One more thing to celebrate!

by Trisha Nakamura

Your Honolulu Chapter introduced a resolution at the JACL National Convention relating to Honouliuli that was unanimously adopted by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The resolution shows support for the Department of the Interior National Parks Service to preserve Honouliuli as the site of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and allows JACL, through its staff or volunteers, to share this support with relevant agencies and policy-makers. This is part of the Honolulu Chapter’s efforts to make sure no one forgets about Honouliuli or those who were interned there. We continue to work to make sure that Hawaii is not left behind in conversations about the unjust incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry and we remember what took place. Please visit our website to see the full text of the resolution.
PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

Americans and Japanese Americans who were held in Honouliuli felt. Even as I stood there at the bottom of the ravine over sixty years later, the isolation and fear were palpable.

What I take from this brief experience is how “real” the internment actually was and is. Before this, the internment was something I had learned about in school and read about. It seemed a thing of the past. Yet as I stood where they stood, I felt their presence and the sacrifices they made. These events that prior to the pilgrimage seem so long ago felt like they had just happened yesterday. Lives were changed forever.

Thank you to our friends at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i — especially Jane Kurahara, Betsy Young, Brian Niiya, and Lenny Andrew — for allowing us to partner with them to share this opportunity with so many.

And thank you to the JACL National Council for voting unanimously to support our chapter’s resolution to ensure that the memory and history of Honouliuli is kept alive.

It is because of those who were incarcerated, their families who carry out their legacies, and scholars and researchers who serve as caretakers of stories that we are reminded of our responsibility to never forget, and to ensure EO 9066 never happens to another group of people.

WHAT’S IN A NAME
Since February, your Board has had continued conversations about the name of the organization and one aspect of our purpose. So many amongst our membership are not Japanese American, yet we are the Japanese American Citizens League. And, so much of our work focuses on protecting the dignity and human rights of more than Japanese Americans.

After the tsunami impacted Japan, our Chapter voted to send a small donation to the relief effort through the Japan America Society of Hawaii. One tenet of the JACL’s purpose is “the promotion of understanding and goodwill between the United States and Japan.” Perhaps this is too narrow and it should include the world.

VIGILANCE AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA
I close with a reflection. Much has been offered about the death of Osama bin Laden in the newspapers, on television, online, via tweets, and in day-to-day conversation. As I listened to the President’s address on the radio in my car, I thought of our Muslim American neighbors in Hawai’i and the country.

I hoped coverage of bin Laden would not fuel more Islamophobia or hatred against Muslim Americans or those who are and are perceived to be Middle Eastern. We are still at war. Guantanamo is still open. And the possibility for scapegoating and targeting flourishes.

Just a few months ago on March 10, 2011, Representative Peter King, Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing called “The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and that Community’s Response”. “Security” was used to justify a singling out of a group of people. The JACL National joined with other organizations to speak out against the hearing. Locally, our Board worked on a resolution introduced by the State Senate and House of Representatives. The resolutions were never heard.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & SEE YOU THIS FALL!
As we as JACL’ers continue to speak out and never be silent. Thank you for your continued support of our work. And I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

We move forward joined together as friends and members of the JACL Honolulu in speaking out to shine light on justice.

In solidarity
Trisha Y. Nakamura
President

Mahalo!

A special thank you to Edgar & Helen Hamasu for their generous monetary donation to our chapter. Your contribution is very much appreciated!

Thanks to Guy T. Fujishige, Associate Vice President, Ameriprise Financial, Inc. for his support of non-profits. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. offers financial advisory services, investments, insurance and annuity products.
Carly Doi Awarded 2011 JACL Scholarship

by Linda Ichiyama

The Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter, congratulates Ms. Carly Doi (’11 St. Andrew’s Priory) on being chosen as the recipient of the JACL – Honolulu Chapter’s 2011 Emerging Leader Scholarship Award. Ms. Doi stood out among the applicants as someone who strives for academic and personal excellence as demonstrated by her grade point average, extensive volunteerism and participation in other extracurricular activities, including outreach to the homeless, Model United Nations Club, JV basketball, and Interact Club.

Doi’s essay submission discussed the need for equality and social justice in government, and specifically focused on the need for increased monitoring of child sex trafficking. Her college plans include studying child psychology and international business with the hope of one day opening a shelter to help children rescued from the sex trade.

We wish Carly success as she begins her college career and know she will continue to exemplify the very best that Hawai’i’s next generation has to offer.

2011 Legislative Update

by Liann Ebesugawa

The JACL’s legislative agenda for the 2011 legislative session included bills affecting civil unions, non-discriminatory actions in employment, prohibiting DNA collection from arrestees, anti-bullying in schools as well as increasing funding for indigent legal services. The following is a summary of the legislative measures and the current status.

SB 232 Relating to Civil Unions
This bill grants the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities granted under marriage to those individuals in civil unions. The JACL Honolulu Chapter has long supported equality in marriage and we believe that we should never make a group an exception to equal protection under the law.
Status: Passed Act 001

HB 132 Relating to DNA Collection of Arrestees of Sexual Offenses Against Minors
A cornerstone of our legal system is that individuals are presumed innocent, until the government has proven their guilt in a court of law. This bill tramples on that principle. DNA collection, by coerced provision of a buccal (mouth) or blood sample, of these individuals violates Hawai’i’s constitutional provisions including the right to privacy, the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure by the government, and the right to due process of law before a deprivation of liberty can occur. An arrest can occur on a mere accusation, and is rife with potential for abuse, by law enforcement or the accuser. It is dangerous, unjust, and unwise to allow government collection of private genetic material, to be permanently stored in government hands forever, based on preliminary information that has not been corroborated nor investigated, where police have not completed their investigation, and where no prosecutor has reviewed evidence to determine whether the individual should be charged. We believe this bill is unconstitutional.
Status: Measure did not cross over to Senate and is alive for consideration in 2012.

HB 546 Relating to Civil Rights
Currently, employers are not allowed to discriminate based on race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status, or arrest and court record. This bill expands prohibited discriminatory practices in employment to include gender identity and expression.
Status: Passed Act 034

SB 1073 Relating to Surcharge for Indigent Legal Service
This bill would increase the sur-
UPDATE, continued from page 5

charge on filing fees to fund indigent legal services. The JACL supported this bill because the inequity in the ability of individuals to access the courts not only diminishes basic rights but erodes the foundational tenet of our society that we are all entitled to equal protection under the law.

Status: Passed Act 180

HB 688 Relating to Education
This bill encourages the Department of Education to maintain and enforce existing anti-bullying policies to protect all children and ensure their right to a safe education. What this ultimately means for our students is that they will all be protected from bullying and cyberbullying and be able to learn in safe environments.

Status: Passed Act 214

HCR 170/HR 147 & SCR 160/ SR 98 Expressing Opposition to the Congressional Hearing on Muslim Radicalization
JACL also supported the introduction of a resolution opposing the U.S. Congressional hearings on Muslim Radicalization because we saw the hearing on March 10, 2011 before the Committee on Homeland Security as reminiscent of the McCarthy communist hearings of the 1950s and stirring the same type of racial hysteria that led to the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

Status: HCR 170/HR 147 was referred to the House Committee on International Affairs and SCR 160/SR 98 was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. The resolutions were not heard.

SB 106 Relating to Hawaii Penal Code
This bill sought to correct a new reading of the sentencing terms which is keeping prisoners locked up longer than their initial judicially intended sentence. Prisoners with pre-1998 prison terms continue to have their sentences changed and increased, while prisoners with post-1998 prison terms do not, because the statute clearly covers the latter group but not the former. However, because the legislature intended to stop the extension of such prison terms, prisoners with pre-1998 prison terms are being denied due process when their terms are still extended without closer review of the judicial intent of their sentences.

Status: The measure was deferred until the next legislative session.

Letter to the Editor
The following ran on April 29, 2011 in the Honolulu Star Advertiser.

SB 106 would correct sentencing mistakes

As a leader committed to fairness and equality for all people, Gov. Neil Abercrombie should approve Senate Bill 106 correcting a new reading of sentencing terms implemented by the previous administration.

A 2005 policy change resulted in prisoners being incarcered beyond their originally intended sentences. Without the passage of SB 106, the rights of this already marginalized and disenfranchised group of incarcerated individuals will continue to be violated.

For decades, the Department of Public Safety, the sentencing court, defense attorneys and prosecutors, all operated under the presumption that multiple prison terms imposed at different times run concurrently.

In 2005, this presumption was unilaterally reversed. Consequently, prison terms were increased beyond what the sentencing judges had intended.

Even the federal court has recognized that the wrongful over-detention under the 2005 policy change was on its face a violation of prisoners’ due-process rights.

SB 106 halts any further unintended, expensive and unconstitutional incarceration of individuals.

Trisha Y. Nakamura
President, Japanese American Citizens League
Honolulu
Members of JACL-Honolulu joined just over a hundred participants in the 2011 Day of Remembrance (DOR) at Honouliuli in Kunia on February 27th. Organized by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH), in partnership with Monsanto, JACL, and the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, the program included a historical overview of internment in the United States, what specifically happened in Hawai‘i, and what the future holds for places like Honouliuli and the associated stories and experiences.

This year, the DOR had three main goals: to allow former internees, their family, friends, and interested members of the community to visit the internment site, to work with the Department of the Interior on possible federal sponsorship of Honouliuli as a national park site, and participate in informational sessions focused on various aspects of Honouliuli (i.e., internees experiences, Hawaiian significance of Honouliuli, etc.).

During World War II (from 1943-1945), over 1200 individuals were interned in the Honouliuli camp and at February’s DOR, several of those internees were present along with their families. For all participants involved, it was a memorable and moving experience to participate in the pilgrimage with individuals who, themselves, had been interned. The keynote address by Gary Okihiro, Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and an O‘ahu native, entitled ‘Honouliuli, Remembering for Democracy’s Sake’ summed up the importance of this DOR – in order for such injustice not to happen again in this country, we must all be aware of what happened here in the past.

Fellow JACL–Honolulu board members Susan Arnett, Travis Agustin, and Yoshie Tanabe all contributed time and expertise to making this year’s DOR a successful and memorable event. Mahalo.

For more information about proposed plans for Honouliuli as a possible National Park site, please visit: http://www.nps.gov/pwro/honouliuli/

We are looking for donations for our silent auction at our Annual General Membership Meeting. If you have an item you’d like to donate, please email jaclhon@gmail.com by October 1, 2011! Thank you!
JACL National Convention

by Liann Ebesugawa & Trisha Nakamura

The 2011 JACL National Convention was held in Hollywood, California from July 7-10. Trisha Nakamura (President), Liann Ebesugawa (Vice-President) and Sean Ibara (Secretary) attended the four-day conference.

The convention started with the new delegate orientation as well as the district caucus, where your Honolulu Chapter delegates met with the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District.

Your delegates also had the opportunity to take in the sights and learn from other chapters. They toured Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum and attended the accompanying reception. They met delegates with local ties including Seattle Chapter’s Dawn Rego and Florin Chapter’s Colette Masunaga both from Kona. A highlight was meeting the newly formed Japan Chapter who sent one delegate Asako Suzuki. Long-time friendships were renewed with Andy Noguchi (Florin Chapter), Chip and Setsy Larouche (Portland Chapter), and our hardworking JACL staff—Patty Wada (District Council staff), Jean Shiraki (from Kauai and Inouye Fellow), Phillip Ozaki (Membership Coordinator), and Floyd Mori (Executive Director).

The second day was dedicated to the business meeting that began with the Federal & Corporate breakfast where Trisha and Liann got to chat with Matt Farrells who is the National Youth Council Chair. The National Youth Council meets three times a year and hold a number of leadership, cultural, and civil rights workshops. They are a great resource for our student members.

During the first business session, Trisha lobbied for the Honolulu Chapter’s Honouliuli resolution. Sean, Liann, and Trisha prepared candies for distribution with labels and informational materials. The National Council (includes all delegates - representing all Chapters in good standing) voted on the resolution later that afternoon which passed unanimously.

The National organization is faced with a serious budget shortage and has been making efforts to increase membership and manage this short-fall. Therefore, Phill Ozaki (Membership Coordinator) led a membership drive session where all Chapters were encouraged to do more to increase membership sign-ups.

Delegates also heard from the JACL

Please see CONVENTION, page 11

Board Member Feature

Alphonso Braggs

1. What attracted you to JACL?
I was attracted to JACL because of its commitment to social justice. I was aware of the great work being done by the JACL and personally knew and held in high regard the local leaders and board members.

2. What civil and human rights issues are you most interested in? Why?
I am particularly interested in race-based discrimination in the judicial system and cases involving employment discrimination. As a nation we are becoming more diverse in the workplace and local community. However, there is tremendous work remaining in the struggle for equality given the disparate treatment of individual in the criminal justice system.

Sadly, workplaces in Hawaii are not immune to discrimination and the spirit of aloha is unable to prevent the strategic harassment and tactical discrimination commonly taking place at our worksites. I believe I can help to make a difference in the struggle for equality through the work and projects of the JACL.

Please see ALPHONSO, page 11
(TOP to BOTTOM) National Executive Director Floyd Mori speaks to delegates at the Culmination Banquet, emcee Tamlyn Tomita looks on; rules officials help facilitate debate on the "Power of Words" resolution; President Trisha Nakamura introduces the Honouliuli resolution; Vice-President Liann Ebesugawa votes "yes" on Honouliuli resolution; Chip Larouche, Past President and Current Treasurer of the JACL Portland Chapter National JACL votes to support Honouliuli preservation at National Convention; Delegates from the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District

Our website has moved! Please visit us online for the most up-to-date information on events, issues, and more!
www.jaclhonolulu.org
Dear JACL Honolulu Chapter,

I distinctly remember reading my first JACL newsletter – I was in high school, and I had anxiously awaited the arrival of the newsletter that I ordered through the mail. I read and re-read every story, fascinated by the accomplishments of this determined organization. I was immediately drawn to the mission and principles of the JACL, and I strongly connected with its message advocating for the advancement of civil and human rights for Japanese Americans and Asian Americans. I knew then that I wanted to be an attorney, to continue the legacy of the Nisei who came before me by serving our country but also by upholding justice.

During my senior year in high school, I applied for a scholarship from the JACL-Honolulu Chapter. I remember studying for many hours, preparing for the oral interview portion of the scholarship application – I felt it was a huge honor for me to be able to interview for the scholarship coming from the Big Island. I was even prouder when I was selected to receive one of the scholarships.

I attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where I continued to pursue my interests, majoring in Political Science. I was active on the Student Association, the Model U.N. Team, and also volunteered to work on several campaigns.

I continued my passion for justice and equality at Boston College Law School, where I was the President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association. During law school, I applied for and accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. Joining the Navy was a way for me to continue the legacy of my granduncle, who was a part of the 100th Infantry Battalion. He was able to serve in the 100th thanks in part to the support of JACL, who urged the U.S. government to allow Japanese Americans to serve in the U.S. military during World War II.

I was recently selected by the U.S. Navy to speak on a panel entitled, “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Diversity: Strength or Weakness” at the 42nd JACL National Convention in Los Angeles. The panel also included Floyd Mori, JACL Executive Director and panel moderator, and Father Vien Nguyen a Vietnamese community leader. I spoke about the Navy’s commitment to diversity, as well as the Navy’s outreach to under-represented communities through the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program.

I was extremely proud and humbled to speak at the JACL convention because its long and distinguished history in advancing the civil rights of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and because it’s an organization that I’ve held in the highest regards since I first learned about it while growing up in grade school. One of the highlights was meeting officers from the JACL – Honolulu Chapter, Trisha, Liann and Sean. Although I met them for the first time, I felt like we knew each other for a long time, and their passion and enthusiasm for civil rights and assisting Hawaii’s next generation was inspiring.

Thank you for your continued assistance to high school students as they pursue their higher education, and thank you for the great work that you do in promoting civil and human rights.

Aloha,
Janelle Kuroda
CONVENTION, continued from page 8

National’s legal counsel, Floyd Shimomura who reported on JACL’s support of legal matters where JACL submitted amicus briefs primarily in cases regarding immigration issues.

Floyd Shimomura also reported on the financial situation of the National JACL and informed the National Council that as the National Board looks at ways of mitigating the continued financial deficit, they may need to come back to the National Council for approval to use the Endowment Fund corpus and Legacy Fund distributions to support national JACL expenses.

At the final banquet, your three delegates heard parting words from Executive Director Floyd Mori. And three leaders in the Asian American Pacific Islander community were honored — Lisa Hasegawa, Father Vien Nguyen, and Lieutenant Dan Choi. Their selfless work to secure rights and equal treatment for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and lesbians and gays was inspiring.

Most importantly, your delegates returned more energized to fight for civil and human rights, and to work harder and smarter for the JACL. Having received training on increasing membership and returning with information from other JACL’ers and experts at the Nikkei Conference held on Saturday, three members of your JACL Board come back ready and more equipped to contribute.

Thank You

to Executive Director Floyd Mori for his years of service. Our Honolulu Chapter wishes Floyd the best in his retirement as he spends time with his family and serves the JACL in new ways.

ALPHONSO, continued from page 8

3. In the next five years, where do you hope JACL will be?

I would like to see the local chapter of the JACL become more engaged in achieving equality and justice for minorities by taking advantage of the opportunities that social media affords. I would like to see a youth chapter started and the community educated on what civil rights discrimination looks like in the 21st century in stark contrast to the movements of the 60’s. I would like to see the local chapter take the lead on formally recognizing local civil rights heroes and documenting their contributions in archival formats so that future generations can access them on venues such as the chapter website. I would also like to see the local chapter champion the preservation of historic landmarks and places soon to be forgotten in order that proper honor and respect may be given and future generations will be able to connect with the past and better understand how and why we are fighting for social justice.

4. Describe yourself. What do you like to do?

I am a very laid back person who loves nature and the great outdoors. I enjoy family, singing, and serving humanity.
Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization with a 25,000 membership base. JACL has 112 chapters nationwide, 4 regional offices, a Washington, D.C. office and a national headquarters in San Francisco. JACL’s mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans while preserving our cultural heritage and values.

Find us online at:
www.jaclhonolulu.org
www.jacl.org

Help us be green! Please email jaclhon@gmail.com if you’d like to receive the newsletter by email instead of by US mail.

JACL Members and Friends gather at the Day of Remembrance