Leading the Way!

JACL Hawai‘i, as a member of the Hawai‘i Friends of Civil Rights coalition, will again be a co-sponsor at the NAACP Hawai‘i Chapter’s 3rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Gala Dinner Dance. The event will be held on Saturday evening, 1/14/06, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel, $50/person. If you are interested in attending and sitting with your fellow JACLers, please call NAACP President Alphonso Braggs, 783-8969 immediately.

Japanese American Citizens League
JACL HAWAI‘I, HONOLULU CHAPTER
www.jacl.org

continued on page 5

JACL HONOLULU STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF LOS ANGELES RALLY FOR KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS, HELD 10/22/05

As an organization committed to securing and maintaining the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others victimized by injustice and prejudice, the JACL Hawai‘i, Honolulu Chapter extends our warmest Mahalo! to all of you for demonstrating your support of the Kamehameha Schools admissions policy today. We also commend our sister chapter, the Downtown Los Angeles JACL, for their strong support of the Kamehameha Schools.

Led by the JACL Honolulu chapter, the JACL National organization—along with our 112 sister chapters, consisting of 24,000 members in 23 states—has supported redress for the loss of Native Hawaiian self-determination for more than two decades. JACL has demonstrated such support most recently by joining a friend-of-the-court amicus brief supporting the Kamehameha Schools’ request for an en banc hearing at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The JACL recognizes that the Kamehameha Schools are an integral part of the movement for self-determination and self-governance, to assist Native Hawaiians in overcoming the devastation of colonialism. We must educate our fellow Americans that our civil rights are not threatened by a program for Native Hawaiians designed to uplift their own people—but rather, that everyone’s civil rights are strengthened when we, as a nation, support such restorative measures for justice.

NAACP Hawai‘i’s Martin Luther King Dinner, January 14, 2006.

JACL Hawai‘i, as a member of the Hawai‘i Friends of Civil Rights coalition, will again be a co-sponsor at the NAACP Hawai‘i Chapter’s 3rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Gala Dinner Dance. The event will be held on Saturday evening, 1/14/06, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel, $50/person. If you are interested in attending and sitting with your fellow JACLers, please call NAACP President Alphonso Braggs, 783-8969 immediately.

Calling JACL Hawai‘i Members to March in the 2006 Martin Luther King Parade January 16, 2006

The parade will be on the Martin Luther King Holiday, Monday, January 16, 2006. It is the largest “People’s Parade” in Honolulu. The 2005 parade included bands, colorful floats, and more than 8,000 people marching with messages of hope, peace and justice. The parade route will be from Ala Moana Park thru Waikiki on Kalakaua Ave. ending at Kapiolani Park.

Following the parade will be a Unity Rally, an all day event to be held at Kapiolani Park. There will be continued top local entertainment, crafts, food as well as games and fun for the children.

JACL Hawai‘i’s MLK Parade coordinator is Yoshe Tanabe. JACL members who want to participate should call Yoshe at 394-1908, or email her at yosheb@juno.com. Marchers should try to be at Magic Island by 8:00 a.m. (the march starts at 9:00 a.m.). If any participants cannot walk, there are always autos that will be more than willing to let anyone ride.

JACL 2006 Day of Remembrance: Honouliuli Revisited

Feb. 20, 2006 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., UH Manoa Architecture Auditorium.

The annual Day of Remembrance event will take place on February 20, 2006 at the Architecture Auditorium at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa. Days of Remembrance are held annually in cities across the country to commemorate Executive Order 9066, issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. This Order authorized what would become a mass forced removal and incarceration of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast—and some 2,000 in Hawai‘i—during World War II.

This year’s DOR event will be a panel presentation on the West O‘ahu Honouliuli Internment Camp, with speakers Ramsay Hishinuma (son of Honouliuli internee), Shozo Takahashi (former Honouliuli internee), Jane Kurahara, and Rosanna Fukuda (Dept. of Education social sciences specialist to discuss new standards which include Hawai‘i internment). Emceed by DOR event chair, Brian Niiya, who can be reached at spoiledsansei@hawaii.rr.com.
I want to thank the JACL Education Committee for their hard work. On behalf of the JACL Board of Directors and our membership, we are pleased to report that this year’s dinner raised a record amount of money. (Our local JACL chapter only receives less than 10 percent of this amount.)

Kaneko’s contributions to JACL Hawai‘i, JACL National, and to our community at large. The AGMM Awards dinner is 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. (Our local JACL chapter only receives less than 10 percent of the membership dues that you pay, so we must continually raise funds to sustain the chapter and all of our activities.) I am pleased to report that this year’s dinner raised a record amount of money for JACL Hawai‘i.

On behalf of the JACL Board of Directors and our membership, I want to thank the JACL Education Committee for their hard work in putting together a very successful Legislative Advocacy workshop event, which was attended by a diverse group of over 100 people. I want to especially acknowledge Education Committee members Ken Akinaka, Brian Niiya, Delores Gloster, Masako Sakamoto-Wong, Clem Bautista, Yoshie Tanabe, Robert Imagire, and Board member Kalene Shim Sakamoto, who was our liaison with the co-sponsoring organization, Chinese American organizations.

You should have recently received a flyer for a JACL-sponsored event on December 1, 2005 for the Rosa Parks Commemoration. Thank you to the Dr. Martin Luther King Coalition and our friends at the NAACP Hawai‘i for inviting us to be a part of the touching remembrance of this civil rights pioneer. You were also just mailed an invitation to attend the ISSA Annual Meeting and Award Presentation on November 14, 2006. Our Board and membership has always co-sponsored this event by purchasing a table, please see the enclosed announcement for information about the JACL Table at the dinner. I hope that all of you will assist our sister civil rights organization, the NAACP Hawai‘i, by supporting their main fundraising event for the year.

In August, JACL Hawai‘i joined several other non-Hawaiian American organizations at a rally held at Iolani Palace to demonstrate our support for the Akaka Bill. Led by JACL Hawai‘i, the national JACL was the first Asian American organization to support redress for loss of Native Hawaiian self-determination, and has been an active supporter for passage of the Akaka Bill (S. 147). A press statement our chapter issued for this rally has been included in this newsletter. JACL Hawai‘i also joined other civil rights organizations—such as the Equal Justice Society, and Careva Legal Ma‘a, in filing an amicus curiae brief on August 20, 2005, in support of Kamehameha Schools’ petition for a rehearing on banc by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Doe v. Kamehameha. The brief was authored by JACL Hawai‘i member, University of Hawai‘i Richard School of law professor Eric Yamamoto. Finally, in October 2005, at the request of our sister Downtown Los Angeles JACL chapter, we issued a statement which was presented at a rally in Los Angeles demonstrating support for Kamehameha Schools and its admissions policy. We have also included this statement in this newsletter.

Our next JACL event is our annual Day of Remembrance (DOR), which will be held on the President’s Day Holiday, February 20, 2006. We gather annually to remember the issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which led to the exclusion and internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast, some 2,000 from Hawai‘i and 2,500 Japanese Latin Americans—to ensure that such injustice is never repeated. This year’s event, featuring the local Honolulu Internment Camp on Oahu, will again be planned by the JACL Education Committee. For more information or to volunteer, contact DOR Event Chair Brian Niiya at spoiledsansei@hawaii.rr.com.

To support the Akaka Bill. Led by the JACL Honolulu chapter, the JACL National organization along with our 112 sister chapters, consisting of 24,000 members in 23 states, have supported redress for the loss of Native Hawaiian self-determination for more than twenty years. We are aware of the hard work that many Native Hawaiian organizations have engaged in to promote the concept of self-determination. Our support for the Akaka Bill is based on a firm belief that it provides a democratic process for Native Hawaiians to choose the form of self-governance best suited to serve the needs and desires of Native Hawaiians.
Thank you to the following members who participated in JACL’s 2005 Give Aloha Campaign!

Alphonso Braggs  
Wallace Fukunaga  
David Forman  
Susan Kitsu  
Alan Murakami  
Karen Nakasone  
Irvin Sasaki  
Marcia Sakamoto-Wong  
Dolly Strazar  

Thank you for a successful AGMM Dinner & Award Presentation Banquet  
Annual Meeting & Award Committee  
Karen Nakasone  
Garrett Toguchi  
Mark Yabui  

Mahalo to the following sponsors  
U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie  
Ashford and Wriston / Mary Wong, Esq.  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
Hawaiian Telcom  
Hoakaa Communications  
Island Insurance Companies  
IWU Local 142  
Tim & Robin Johns  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
Pacific Resource Partnership  
Petie Thompson  

Mahalo to the following volunteers  
Ken Akinaka  
Roman Amaguin  
Alphonso Braggs  
Tim Chun  
Richard Dubanovski  
Educare Technologies  
David Forman  
Pam Funai  
Alice Hokama  
Clayton Ieki  
William Kaneko  
Susan Kitsu  
Art Koga  
Michael Murata  
Hayme & Chieko Nakasone  
Brian Niiya  
Shelley Nishimura  
Marcia Sakamoto-Wong  
Barbara Tanabe  
Allison Hikida Tasaka  
Nancy Nakasone Tellenino  
William Woods  
Capt. Bruce Yamashita, USMCR  
Wendy Yamashita

JACL Advanced Legislative Advocacy Event

Did you know that 3,690 bills were introduced in the last session of the State Senate? And that only 277 of those bills passed? The why and how of the legislative process was the topic of the chapter’s fall event titled “Advanced Legislative Advocacy: How to Turn Your Concerns into Law.

Held on November 5, 2005 at the State Capitol Auditorium, the program featured a distinguished panel that included State Senators Colleen Hanabusa and Les Ihara, Jr. and experienced advocates Gail Mukaihata Hannemann and Bill Hashiyo. Judge Riki May Amano (ret.) ably moderated the panel in free flowing fashion. The audience learned the ingredients of what makes a successful bill from the perspective of both lawmakers and those who advocate for specific pieces of legislation.

The event was cosponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services, University of Hawaii Manoa; the Organization of Chinese Americans, Hawaii Chapter; and the Organization of Chinese American Women, Hawaii Chapter. A long list of local organizations also lent their name to the event as supporters.

Special Recognition for JACL Honolulu Board Member

On January 25, 2005, the Pacific School of Religion (“PSR”) will present its “Distinguished Alumni” award to the Reverend Wally Fukunaga. PSR is the largest theological graduate school for the United Church of Christ (“UCC”), and has long been at the forefront of progressive Christianity.

A product of the Hawai‘i public schools, Wally went on to earn degrees from Harvard University the Princeton Theological Seminary, and PSR. Rev. Fukunaga was President of a self-start company called Northshore Resources, Inc., for 18 years. The company was honored as the Small Business of the Year in 1981 by Work Hawai‘i. In 1990, Wally returned to the ministry, serving as pastor of Wai‘oli UCC on Kauai, then as senior pastor of the Community Church of Honolulu, interim pastor of Wai‘oli Kauai Congregational Church, and currently, as interim pastor of Moanalua Community Church.

Rev. Fukunaga has continuously sought to connect his faith to matters of justice, tolerance and peace. He participated in the civil rights movement, went to Vietnam during the height of the war with a delegation of the World Council of Churches, and served as president of the Hawai‘i Chapter of the ACLU. Wally also served for six years as a trustee of PSR, as president of the Oahu Association of the UCC, and on the boards of the Mental Health Association of Hawai‘i, the Wai‘oli Health Center (founding member), the Board of Governors of the Japanese Cultural Center, and currently serves on the board of directors for JACL Honolulu.

Congratulations on a well-deserved distinction! The members of JACL and your fellow board members are grateful for your vision, leadership, and ongoing contributions to civil and human rights.

Photo above from left to right: Kalene Sakamoto, JACL; Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, JACL; Wanda Tse, OCA Hawaii Director; Vera Wong, OCA Hawaii Director; Karen Nakasone, JACL President; Rikki May Amano, Moderator; Gayle Mukaihata Hanneman, Queenie Chee, OCAW Hawaii.

Panelists at a JACL 11/05/05 event from left to right: Senator Les Ihara, Gail Mukaihata Hanneman, Senator Colleen Hanabusa, William Hoshijo.
E ric K. Yamamoto, a professor with The William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i, and Hawai‘i civil rights lawyer David Forman, today announced that three civil rights groups have filed an amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) brief in support of Kamehameha Schools’ petition for a rehearing en banc by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Doe v. Kamehameha.

The San Francisco-based Equal Justice Society, Japanese American Citizens League-Hawai‘i Chapter and Centro Legal de la Raza filed the brief to inform the court that civil rights groups with roots in communities of color see Kamehameha Schools’ admissions policy as restorative justice for an indigenous people whose culture, property and self-governance were nearly destroyed by 19th and 20th century colonialism.

“Our brief says that the Kamehameha Schools’ admissions policy does not impede the civil rights of racial minorities,” said Yamamoto, who is counsel to the three amici and also a board member of the Equal Justice Society. “The Native Hawaiian experience is unique and these civil rights groups support restorative justice for Native Hawaiians.”

“The brief contends that the appeals court panel was incorrect in comparing the Schools’ admissions policy to an affirmative action diversity program in private businesses. Unlike programs by other ethnic groups, a private program for indigenous peoples that uses race as a determining factor is legitimate as long as it is crafted as a ‘restorative response’ to the devastation of colonialism.

The brief cites a 1974 Supreme Court decision in Morton v. Mancari that hiring preferences favoring Native Americans, do not conflict with the Constitution. ‘The Indian preference does not constitute ‘racial discrimination’ or even ‘racial preference,’” said the high court in that ruling.

“Indeed race/ancestry had to be an integral factor in the political restoration process because race/ancestry had been key originally in the U.S.’s justification for the confiscation of land ... and the destruction of culture and self-governance,” said the brief about Morton.

Ninth Circuit Judge Susan Graber, in partially dissenting from the three-judge appeals court panel argued that Congress has expressly considered Native Hawaiians as a unique group. “In the absence of more specific Supreme Court guidance, we should look directly to congressional intent,” wrote Graber. “Congress intended that a preference for Native Hawaiians, in Hawaii, by a Native Hawaiian organization, located on the Hawaiian monarchy’s ancestral lands, be upheld because it furthers the urgent need for better education of Native Hawaiians...”

JACL 2006
Day of Remembrance: Honouliuli Revisited, Feb. 20, 2006
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., UH Manoa Architecture Auditorium.

The Honolulu JACL is once again organizing a Day of Remembrance (DoR) program, this year set for Monday, February 20, 2006 at the Architecture Auditorium at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa at 2:00 pm. This year’s event is titled “Honouliuli Revisited: 2006 Day of Remembrance.” The focus of the event will be on the little known internment camp located in Honouliuli Gulch in West O‘ahu where local Japanese Americans and others were detained during World War II.

The event will focus both on the past and present of the Honouliuli camp. Two speakers will relate their and their families’ experiences during the war years. Shozo Takahashi was a Kibei Japanese school teacher and principal from Ewa who was picked up by authorities and incarcerated at both Sand Island and Honouliuli. Now ninety-one years old, he will share his recollections of internment. Ramayu Hishiruma will relate his family’s wartime and postwar story that began with the internment of his father, Junjiro Hishiruma, at Honouliuli. Theirs are but two of the many such stories emanating from this neglected time and place in history.

Honoulliuli Camp to be the Focus of 2006 Day of Remembrance

The event will also feature current efforts on behalf of Honouliuli. Jane Kurahara, a retired school librarian and volunteer at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i will describe some of these efforts. Kurahara has been at the forefront of both efforts to make the Hawai‘i internment story better known and to document and preserve the actual Honouliuli camp site.

The Honolulu DoR will be one of many taking place across the country over the Presidents Day holiday weekend. The events have become an integral part of Japanese American communities since the late 1970s, when they served as rallying points in the ultimately successful campaign to seek redress for the mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast during World War II. Days of Remembrance specifically commemorate President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, issued on February 19, 1942. This executive order led to the mass exclusion of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast and their subsequent internment in American style concentration camps. Though EO 9066 did not directly affect the vast majority of the large Japanese American population in Hawai‘i, several thousand local Japanese were either excluded or interned during World War II.

The event is co-sponsored by the UH Office of Multicultural Student Services. Also lending their support are the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i and the Hawai‘i Chapter of the NAACP.

Please mark your calendars and join us for what is always an inspiring and educational event. The program is slated to run from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm with time for questions and talk story afterward. Light refreshments will be provided and parking on campus will be free. We hope to see you there.