



# JACL HAWAII Leading the Way!

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment

### ARTICLE VI. NOMINATION, ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE

Section 3. The term of office of officers and directors shall begin at the conclusion of the annual general meeting [on July 1]. The term of office for officers and directors is two (2) years or until successors assume their positions.

### ARTICLE VII.

#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, QUORUM

Section 1. The annual general membership meeting shall be held between the months of April through June, inclusive. Based upon special circumstances, The Board may delay conducting the general annual membership through September. The Board may hold additional general membership meetings at other times as it deems necessary.

At its July 11, 2005 meeting, the board of directors voted to submit the foregoing amendment for action by the membership. The purpose of this amendment is to provide a more flexible date for the annual general membership meeting, while assuring that the board's work and decisions remain responsible and disciplined in the context of total organizational obligations and needs.

The board also decided that further review and discussion should take place before acting on a proposed amendment to the "Purpose" section of the Constitution. Currently, one of the organization's purposes is "the promotion of understanding and goodwill between the United States and Japan." A member has suggested replacing "Japan" with "the World." The board welcomes your thoughts on this matter.

## William Kaneko to be Honored at August General Membership Meeting

Marriott Hotel on Friday, August 26, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.



William Kaneko

**W**e invite you attend our Annual General Membership Meeting and Award Dinner. This year's event will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Friday, August 26, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the dinner is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members and \$1,500 per table sponsor. The net proceeds raised from this event will go to support JACL Honolulu's Chapter operations and JACL Honolulu's Local Scholarship Program.

JACL Honolulu is pleased to have Ms. Barbara Tanabe and Capt. Bruce I. Yamashita, USMCR serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event. This year, we honor William (Bill) Kaneko as the recipient of JACL's Distinguished Service Award. As many of you know, in addition to being a past President of JACL Honolulu, Bill led the fight in Hawaii to seek redress for Japanese Americans that were unjustly interned or forced to evacuate their homes during WWII. As President, Bill also led JACL's successful legal battle against racial discrimination in the US Marine Corps in the case of local boy Bruce Yamashita.

Please join us and send in your RSVP and payment as soon as you receive your invitation. Should you have any questions, please call Mark Yabui, Co-Chair at 542-7445.

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## JACL Education Committee May Retreat

Currently the Education Committee consists of approximately nine active members. The committee is hoping to expand its membership in order to realize its agenda. It welcomes any current or new members of JACL who have an interest in developing educational activities and programs promoting cultural values and civil and human rights. The committee meets on the first Monday of the month.

Those wishing to join the Education Committee, please contact Marcia Sakamoto Wong at [wmm@aloha.com](mailto:wmm@aloha.com) or (after August 31, 2005) Yoshie Tanabe at [yojimbo8@juno.com](mailto:yojimbo8@juno.com).

## Federal Funding Request

**F**ormer JACL Honolulu Chapter Education & Events Committee member Tom Nishi (currently a member of the Berkeley chapter) is seeking support for the TRIO and Perkins Loan programs.

On July 12, 2005, the Senate Labor/Health and Human Services/ Education Appropriations Subcommittee voted to restore funding for the TRIO programs (including Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Gear Up) to \$836.5 million. However, efforts are underway to try and get an additional \$40 million in funds through the full appropriations committee.

For more information, visit the web at [www.defendupwardbound.com](http://www.defendupwardbound.com) and/or [www.savetriotalentsearch.info](http://www.savetriotalentsearch.info).

**O**n Wednesday, February 23, 2005 Education Committee members and guests were hosted by JACL president, Karen Nakasone at a luncheon held at the Willows Restaurant in honor of Day of Remembrance keynoter, Yuri Kochiyama.

Back Row - left to right: Saleem Ahmed, Eddie Kochiyama, Marcia Sakamoto Wong, Yuri Kochiyama, Yoshie Tanabe, Wendy Yamashita, Brian Niya, Pauline Nishi. Front - left to right: Ken Akinaka, Leslie Ishii, Delores Glover, Kyle Kajihira, Karen Nakasone



## JACL Board Members

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Marcia Sakamoto Wong

William E. Woods

Mark Yabui



Japanese American Citizens League  
P.O. Box 1291 Honolulu, HI 96807



Karen Nakasone

Since our last newsletter, JACL Honolulu Chapter has held three events: (1) hosted our annual Day of Remembrance ("DOR") event on February 21, 2005, (2) co-sponsored a Symposium on Religious Diversity on the morning of May 14, 2005 with columnist David Shapiro as featured speaker, and (3) hosted a film screening benefit fundraiser for Cedar Grove Productions' new film "Memorial Day" on the afternoon of May 14, 2005.

Thanks to all the members who attended these events, and those who made contributions to ensure the success of these events. Mahalo to Education Committee Chair Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, and committee members Clement Bautista, Brian Niiya, Dolores Glover, Ken Akinaka, Pam Funai, Robert Imakire, Shelley Nishimura, Tom Nishi, Wendy Yamashita, Susan Kitsu and Yoshie Tanabe, for all of their hard work in planning the DOR event. Thank you to Diversity Committee Chair Wally Fukunaga for his initiative and contribution to the Symposium on Religious Diversity event, and to Immediate Past President Susan Kitsu, Treasurer Michael Murata, Marcia Sakamoto-Wong, Mark Yabui, and Yoshie Tanabe for their assistance with the "Memorial Day" film fundraiser. The event helped to raise over \$3,000.00 for Cedar Grove Productions. For more information about the film or to contribute, please check out [www.cedargroveproductions.com](http://www.cedargroveproductions.com).

JACL Honolulu also issued a letter of support for local writer Tom Coffman's film project, "The First Battle", which will tell the story of the behind-the-scenes, multiracial network of courageous individuals who worked to protect the Japanese American community in Hawai'i during World War II. You were mailed a flyer and cover letter requesting assistance for a July 23, 2005 filming of a re-enactment of a 1944 community meeting. For more information about the film or to contribute, please check out [www.thefirstbattle.com](http://www.thefirstbattle.com).

On the legislative front, JACL Honolulu in early July, issued a call to action for National JACL to honor the resolutions passed at the 1984, 1986, 1992, and 2000 JACL National Conventions (urging redress for the loss of Native Hawaiians' self-determination and/or federal recognition of their political status as an indigenous group), and actively support the passage of the Akaka Bill (S.147), by signing a petition signifying their support, and urging every JACL chapter, National Board and staff members to do the same. A JACL Action Alert was generated, sent to all Alerts recipients nationwide, and posted on the JACL National website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)). On the home front, JACL Honolulu sent a letter to the Governor urging passage of H.B. 1715 and H.B. 1450, which amend existing housing and employment statutes to make it unlawful to discriminate on the bases of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression."

I hope that all of you will join us for the 2005 Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) on the evening of August 26, 2005, where we will have a short business meeting followed by presentation of the 2005 JACL Distinguished Service Award to Past JACL President William (Bill) Kaneko for his significant contribution in helping Hawai'i internees obtain redress, and for his leadership in Bruce Yamashita's legal battle against discrimination in the U.S. military. We are honored to have Bruce Yamashita and Barbara Tanabe as Honorary Co-Chairs of the event. 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 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 continually fundraise locally to sustain the chapter and all of our activities.

Our active committees (especially the ones featured here in this newsletter) welcome new volunteers - so if you haven't already, please step up and join us in making JACL Honolulu a better organization.

Aloha,

Karen T. Nakasone  
President, JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League

## Report on the Symposium on Religious Diversity

Transforming Intolerance into Cooperation

On Saturday, May 14, JACL Hawai'i co-sponsored the Symposium on Religious Diversity with the theme, "Transforming Intolerance into Cooperation." It was held in the spacious new and air-conditioned auditorium of Central Union Church.

JACL members Saleem Ahmed, Kenneth Akinaka, James Dixon, Wally Fukunaga, Dolores Glover, Shirley Hayashi, Karen Nakasone, and Gregg Tsugawa were among the 150 in attendance.

Key-note speaker, David Shapiro, columnist for The Honolulu Advertiser, warned of the confluence of forces sweeping our nation that have led to rise of the religious right and the repression of civil liberties and the loss of respect for civil law.

Among the forces he cited were fear stemming from the attack of 9/11, the complexity of our times, the rise of white supremacy groups and rap music that condones violence and hate.

## JACL Education Committee May Retreat

Marcia Sakamoto Wong

At a first-time half-day retreat held on May 22nd, the JACL Honolulu Chapter's Education Committee revisited its mission and developed an agenda for the remainder of 2005 and for 2006. The mission remains twofold: to address current human and civil rights issues and to educate the community about the Japanese American experience and JA contributions to both the local and national scenes. In fulfilling its mission, the committee has evolved an ambitious agenda. Annual educational events will be presented, collaboration with other civil rights organizations will continue to be pursued and on-going educational projects will be developed.



Marcia Sakamoto Wong

One of these projects will research curricula dealing with the JA experience and examine those which may be appropriate for inclusion in Hawai'i schools. The Go For Broke Foundation, the Densho Project, and the National JACL all have developed curricula. The Education Committee would appreciate being informed about other available educational materials pertaining to the JA experience. Anyone with information please contact Yoshie Tanabe or Marcia Sakamoto Wong at their e-mail addresses below.

Another potential program is a speaker's bureau to address a range of topics related to Japanese Americans and other minorities. Committee members also expressed interest in developing an extra curricular cultural activities program for young school children. As proposed, the program would be offered during school intercessions at designated venues.

With the intent of spreading leadership among its members, the Education Committee is re-organizing. In lieu of a designated chair for the committee as a whole, specific events and projects will be coordinated by individuals on the committee. Dolores Glover will chair the 2005 Fall educational event currently being planned. Brian Niiya will chair the 2006 Day of Remembrance and Shelley Nishimura is slated to chair the 2006 Fall event.

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## "Why would someone join the JACL and What does JACL do?"

For Better Americans in a Greater America

### Why would someone join JACL?

- Make a connection with the community
- Volunteerism
- Involve with grassroots and activism for social justice
- A family tradition of continued involvement
- Someone gifted a JACL membership
- Stay informed on Japanese American and Asian American current issues
- Social involvement with wonderful people
- Doing the Right Thing, believe in the JACL mission
- Education
- Take on a leadership role
- Someone twisted my arm
- Continue the JACL legacy for future generations
- JACL member benefits i.e. insurance, credit union, scholarship and leadership programs, etc.

### What does JACL do?

- The voice for Japanese Americans on issues of civil rights and continue to fight bigotry and racism at a national level.
- Activate grassroots network on issues of concern.
- Building relationships (coalition building) within and other communities.
- Support for individuals and organizations victimized by racism, prejudice or hate crimes.
- Influencing the elimination of inappropriate legislation/laws/ordinances that foster injustice.
- Educational role in providing teacher workshops with our curriculum guide on the Japanese American Experience of WWII.
- Instill local community activities and involvement.
- Develop leaders within our community and for public service.
- Empower youth to take on leadership roles through the National Youth Council, National Youth Conference, scholarships, Congressional Fellowship and leadership development programs.
- Preserving our cultural heritage.
- Preserving our rich Japanese American history.
- Honor our veterans, community leaders and pioneers.

- Programs to promote greater understanding and appreciation of diversity and tolerance through education.

### JACL Membership Benefits

- Pacific Citizen
- Scholarship Program
- JACL Credit Union
- Customized Major Medical\*
- Long Term Care Plan\*
- Catastrophe Major Medical Insurance Plan\*
- Short-Term Medical Plan\*
- Term Life Insurance\*
- Personal Accident Insurance\*
- Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans\*
- Cancer Care Protection Plan\*

additional information is available upon request.

\*Membership does not guarantee acceptance into the above insurance programs. The insurers have developed their own acceptance criteria and recommend contacting these respective carriers with specific situations.

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Hertz Rental Car Discount: Upgrade or discount on weekly rentals.

Hawai'i Herald Discount: Discount on subscription rate.

**GET INVOLVED!**  
We look forward to hearing from you!