



# HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

## NEWSLETTER

January, 1992

### 1992 BOARD

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### HWL ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION!!!

**REMINDER** — The HWL Annual Awards Celebration and installation of new officers and directors takes place on January 24, 1992, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall, 21st Floor Grill. This is a great occasion to meet new and old friends, and celebrate HWL's successes in 1991. HWL will bestow its awards for Distinguished Service and Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year. Heavy pupus and refreshments will be served.

Please call Linnel Nishioka as soon as possible to RSVP: 587-2997 (office) or 625-1446 (home).

### MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTING PRESIDENT

As I end my three years on the HWL Board, including this last year as President, I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with so many caring and hard-working individuals who have really made this organization and its programs a phenom-

enal success. My heartfelt thanks to everyone and my wish that you will continue to do the good works that have become synonymous with HWL. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to get involved, this is the time to do so!

On a more personal note, as my husband and I eagerly, and with some trepidation, await the birth of our first child, I have thought a lot over these last five months about a woman's right to choose. Some (mostly opponents of pro-choice) have characterized pro-choice as pro-abortion. It is not, it is the right to control our own bodies. I do not know if I could ever have an abortion, but I do know that it would be, by far, the hardest decision of my life. I do know that without our right to choose, we would lose autonomy over our own bodies and our humanity as well.

Some (mostly opponents of pro-choice) would say that pregnancy is a natural process. However, after months of morning (all day!) sickness, fatigue, indigestion, pains everywhere, insomnia, leg cramps, weight gain and forgetfulness, it has had its moments that I can say are only bearable because I really want this child. I cannot imagine a world in which a woman would have to go through this "natural" process against her will and yet that world is rapidly upon us. I hope that you will support, as I have, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU Reproductive Rights Project to preserve our right to choose.

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## **HWL ANNUAL RETREAT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

Save February 1, 1992 on your calendar for the annual HWL retreat. All interested members are welcome to join the new officers and directors of HWL for a brainstorming session. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and get involved in committees, new projects, and more!

The retreat will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on February 1 at the Teahouse at Queen Emma Gardens Apartments, on Nuuanu and Vineyard. Please call Trudy Burns at 531-6575 for more information and to confirm your attendance.

## **AD HOC TASK FORCE ON INTERSPOUSAL TORT IMMUNITY**

HWL is forming an ad hoc task force to study the report that Professor Miller will submit to the next Legislature on Hawaii's interspousal tort immunity policy. The task force will recommend a position for HWL to take during the next legislative session.

Anyone interested in joining the task force should contact Trudy Burns at 531-6575.

## **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ORIENTATION SESSION**

Due to the standing-room-only turnout at last year's orientation session, Hawaii Women Lawyers and the Hawaii Women's Legal

Foundation are pleased to announce another orientation session for those interested in becoming members of a state board or commission. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about what's involved and how to get appointed! Mrs. Celia Suzuki from the Governor's Office and Senator Ann Kobayashi, chair of the Senate committee that confirms executive appointments to boards and commissions, will be present to provide some insight and answer your questions.

**DATE:** January 22, 1992  
**TIME:** Noon  
**PLACE:** State Office Tower, Conference Room 504

If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119 or Rai Sant Chu at 528-4000.

## **GOVERNOR'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCY LIST**

Vacancies to be filled before the end of the 1992 legislative session.

Board of Acupuncture	3 vacancies (1 citizen, 2 acupuncturist)
Child Abuse and Neglect Secondary Prevention Advisory Committee	1 vacancy
Civil Defense Advisory Council	2 vacancies
Civil Service Commission	1 vacancy
Advisory Council for Community Services	2 Oahu vacancies
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts	1 vacancy representing Maui
State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities	2 vacancies representing consumers
District School Advisory Council, Third District-Honolulu	1 vacancy
District School Advisory Council, Sixth District-Windward Oahu	1 vacancy representing Kailua

Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	1 vacancy at-large	Central Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	1 vacancy representing the consumer
State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee	1 vacancy representing the consumer	Diamond Head Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	2 vacancies representing the consumer
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects	1 vacancy representing the public	Leeward Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	1 vacancy representing the consumer
Environmental Council	2 vacancies	Windward Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	3 vacancies representing the consumer
State Ethics Commission	2 vacancies to be submitted by the Judicial Council	Maui Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	1 vacancy representing the consumer
Hawaii Community Development Authority	1 vacancy at-large	Board of Directors, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii	1 vacancy
Hawaii Housing Authority	1 vacancy representing Hawaii	Board of Examiners in Optometry	1 vacancy representing the public
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Information network Corporation (Hawaii, Inc.)	1 vacancy	County Public Health Facility Management Advisory Committee, City and County of Honolulu	1 vacancy
Statewide Health Coordinating Council	1 vacancy representing the consumer	Public Utilities Commission	1 vacancy
Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council	3 vacancies representing the consumer	Real Estate Commission	2 vacancies, 1 each representing Maui and Oahu
Central Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council	2 vacancies representing the consumer	Board of Regents, University of Hawaii	3 vacancies, 1 each representing Kauai, Hawaii and Oahu
Waianae Coast Subarea Health Planning Council	5 vacancies representing the consumer	Board of Registration, Island of Oahu	1 vacancy
Windward Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council	1 vacancy representing the consumer	Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology	1 vacancy representing the public
Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council	1 vacancy representing the consumer	Stadium Authority	2 vacancies
Kauai County Subarea Health Planning Council	2 vacancies representing the consumer	Board of Taxation Review, First Taxation District (Oahu)	1 vacancy
State Highway Safety Council	1 vacancy	Board of Taxation Review, Second Taxation District (Maui)	2 vacancies
Board of Human Services	1 vacancy at-large	Board of Taxation Review, First Taxation District (Kauai)	1 vacancy
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board	1 vacancy	Committee on Transportation	2 vacancies, 1 representing Maui
Land Use Commission	1 vacancy representing Kauai	Board of Vocational Rehabilitation	2 vacancies, 1 each representing at-large and Maui
Library Advisory Commission, County of Hawaii and Kauai	total of 3 vacancies	Commission on the Status of Women	1 vacancy
State Council on Mental Health and Substance Abuse	1 vacancy each, representing Kauai and Maui		

*Hawaii*  

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**WOMEN  
LAWYERS**

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*tive Committee 1990 - 1992*

# Legislative Committee 1990 - 1992

The HWL Legislative Committee monitors bills which may impact upon Hawaii's women. The committee meets regularly, during the Hawaii state Legislative Session, to debate issues reflected in the policies being considered by the Legislature and to analyze pending legislation for its potential negative or positive effect upon Hawaii's women.

The committee reflects the rapid development, in Hawaii, of women attorneys with expertise in many areas of law. The committee debates are lively and stimulating and provide HWL members with an opportunity to share our vast knowledge and to exercise our creative and analytical thinking in the realm of the future.

Each committee member is free to choose an area of interest to them and to track the bills in which they have expertise. The committee members present testimony submitted on behalf of HWL and, when possible, make themselves available to Legislators to answer questions related to the testimony presented. The testimony reflects the positions taken on various issues of concern to women which have been established as policy for the organization by the HWL Board of Directors.

Since 1990 HWL, through the Legislative Committee, has been instrumental in supporting passage of legislation in these areas:

- \* Urging the Governor to appoint an equal number of women and men to all state Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions;

- \* Creating options for members of the adoption triad (adopted children, birth parents & adoptive parents) to obtain access to information previously hidden, while protecting a parent's right to prevent disclosure, if desired ;

- \* Family Leave (in conjunction with the HWL Family Leave Committee);

- \* Several bills related to Domestic Violence;  
and many others. . . .

During the 1991 Hawaii Legislative Session, the committee tracked and presented testimony on more than 20 proposed bills and resolutions.

Following the 1991 Session our Legislative Committee Chair, Sara Lyn Smith, was appointed by the HOUSE & SENATE WOMEN's CAUCUS (a bi-partisan caucus of the Hawaii State Legislature) to chair a Legislative Committee comprised of a large coalition of Legislators, attorneys, social-workers, counselors, representatives of law enforcement, and other community leaders and experts in the area of domestic violence, to develop of package of bills addressing 'CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN.' The HOUSE & SENATE WOMEN's CAUCUS accepted 15 of the bills developed by their committee, which they signed at a press conference on January 16, 1992 and introduced for consideration during the 1992 Session.

*The Hawaii Women Lawyers Legislative Committee*

*meets every Friday during the Legislative Session  
to review bills & resolutions of concern to women  
& to prepare testimony*

*noon - 1:15 p.m.  
at the Richards Street YWCA*

*Chair: Sara Lyn Smith, Esq. 523-7011*

*\*All H W L members in good standing are welcome to attend and to participate \**

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## HWL MEMBERSHIP

HWL invites you to become a member, or to renew your membership dues, if you have not already done so. (Dues run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.) Please send the following form to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

Regular members \$30    Out-of-state members \$20    Student members \$10  
New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$20

HWL President's Circle:    \$100    \$500    \$1000 (circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please indicate if you are interested in information about serving on the HWL Board or Committees

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Please note any topics or projects in which you would be interested in assisting

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Moved? Name change? Receiving duplicates? Please send old mailing label with corrections to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. If you have any announcements you wish to submit for the monthly newsletter, please call Susan Arinaga at 543-4791, Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119, or Kathy Young at 524-4880, or send a copy to HWL by the end of every month.

### HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

P.O. Box 2072  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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