



## HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

November 1993

### 1993 HAWAII BAR CONVENTION: HWL RECEPTION

HWL will host an informal reception at the 1993 Hawaii Bar Convention. The reception will take place on Friday, December 3, 1993 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Sea Pearl IV (just up the escalator from the Coral Ballrooms) at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Please join us for refreshments and a chance to chat and relax. RSVP to Laura Thielen at 599-4141 by November 29. HWL members: free; nonmembers: \$12.

### HWL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The HWL Legislative Committee will hold a meeting on November 24, 1993 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Commission on the Status of Women, Richards Street Post Office Building. Call Michele Chess at 531-5787 for more information.

### "STRENGTHENING OUR VOICES": HAWAII STATEWIDE WOMEN'S SUMMIT CONFERENCE

The purpose of the Statewide Women's Summit Conference on Saturday, December

4, 1993, is to bring women from the public and private sectors together to identify issues of concern, exchange ideas and information, and develop strategies for legislative action during the 1994 legislative session and the coming year. The Commission on the Status of Women is organizing and funding this event in cooperation with the following organizations: Sex Abuse Treatment Center; American Association of University Women; Parents of Murdered Children; Hawaii State Committee on Family Violence; Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline.

Highlights of the Conference are: presentations, fact sheets and road maps for legislative action on critical women's issues; facilitated group meetings to identify issues of concern to women in Hawaii; and opportunities to network with leaders in the women's community.

The proposed conference agenda includes a workshop on the importance of coalition building; workshops/presentations on issues; luncheon speaker; and identifying issues, solutions and strategies.

Call the Commission on the Status of Women at 586-5757 for more information.

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## CIVIL RIGHTS FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS

Hawaii Women Lawyers' current position statement on civil rights (adopted in February, 1990) states:

*CIVIL RIGHTS* - HWL supports the vigorous enforcement of civil rights under state and federal law, and seeks to improve the protection of these civil rights, particularly for women and minorities historically subject to discrimination.

Some HWL Board members wish to strengthen this position statement to specifically support the civil rights of gays and lesbians, to show organizational opposition to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

As you know, HWL's Board of Directors voted to publicly support the Hawaii Supreme Court decision challenging the state's prohibition against marriage between couples of the same sex (*Baehr v. Lewin*, No. 15689 (Haw. May 5, 1993) based *solely* upon the case's significance for women. The Court in *Baehr* expressly stated that discrimination by the government on the basis of sex will be subject to the same type of strict scrutiny applied to racial, ethnic and religious discrimination. Hence, Hawaii now applies strict scrutiny in cases of alleged discrimination against women.

HWL, however, has not taken a public position on specific civil rights issues for gays and lesbians such as same-sex marriage. The HWL Board seeks comments from its members on amending its position statement to

specifically support such civil rights. Such a position statement would enable HWL to voice its support of same-sex marriage and its opposition to a constitutional amendment which would prohibit this (see ACLU article below).

Please contact President Cori Lau by telephone (956-6551), FAX (946-7366) or write to P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804, prior to our next board meeting on December 8, 1993.

## ACLU ORGANIZES OPPOSITION TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The ACLU has asked HWL to join a coalition of community groups to support *Baehr v. Lewin* and oppose a constitutional amendment to our state constitution which would prohibit same-sex marriage. The ACLU is organizing the coalition for several reasons:

1. Equality for gays and lesbians.
  2. Unprecedented and higher protection for women in their fight against sex discrimination (since the *Baehr* case is one of *gender* discrimination and has raised the burden of proof in the state in sex discrimination cases).
  3. The case should be allowed to complete its course in the judicial system. A constitutional amendment would subvert this.
  4. A constitutional amendment that *restricts* liberty is a danger to us all. The door is then opened to amend or delete other liberties (such as reproductive choice, freedom of religion, ethnic cultural practices including those
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of native Hawaiians, privacy, the right of workers to organize, etc.)

Regardless of whether HWL is able to support ACLU as an organization, individuals who support the coalition can help by calling or writing to state representatives to share their views.

### **LORRAINE AKIBA WINS BALLROOM DANCING AWARDS**

Lorraine Akiba's "intensely competitive" nature helped her earn honors in 16 categories at a regional ballroom dance meet in Las Vegas last April. Akiba, who has been dancing seriously only since September, 1992, swept awards in every category she entered and took the top solo exhibition award. Congratulations Lorraine!

### **PUBLIC READING AT DIAMOND HEAD THEATRE**

A playwright group suspects that its newest member is a cannibal! A Vietnamese teenager struggles to cope with psychic powers as her country and family are torn apart by war. Experience the saucy satire *Red Salty Fluids* and the drama *Seer From Saigon* as they are presented by actors at a public reading in Diamond Head Theatre, on Saturday evening, November 20, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. Meet the playwright, Honolulu attorney Elaine M. Hazzard, at the discussion following. Entry to the theatre's Green Room is by the back door of the theatre; there is no charge for this event. For more information contact Elaine M. Hazzard at 734-1641.

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### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY OPENINGS**

The U.S. Army is accepting applications for 2 civilian attorneys for employment at Fort Shafter:

- (1) Environmental Law Attorney: applicant must have training or experience in environmental law;
- (1) Government Contract Attorney: applicant must have a minimum of 1 year experience with federal government contracts.

For further information about the jobs or application process, call Coral Pietsch, Esq. at 438-3580.

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**BALLOT**  
**1994 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS**

Please vote for officers and directors of the 1994 HWL Board as indicated below. Although there are nine directors on the board, Laura Thielen is exempt from the election as the 1993 Vice-President/President Elect.

Only **ACTIVE DUES PAYING MEMBERS OF HWL** are entitled to vote. If you have not paid your dues this year, please mail your membership dues (\$40 for regular members; \$20 for out-of-state members and new admittees; \$10 for student members) in so that we can count your vote. All ballots must be postmarked no later than December 3, 1993 and mailed to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805.

**Vice President/President-Elect and  
Director (vote for 1 only)**

Pamela Berman has practiced law for 16 years. She is a sole practitioner focusing on family law and criminal defense law.

**Secretary and Director (vote for 1 only)**

Susan Orlando Liu is a staff attorney with the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline, a statewide hotline assisting and providing legal services to battered women.

**Treasurer and Director (vote for 1 only)**

Judith Sterling is currently the Treasurer of HWL, is a partner with Sterling and Tucker. A lawyer and CPA, she has been practicing in Hawaii since 1981.

**Directors (vote for 5 only)**

Lindley Chang is currently Vice-President and Risk Manager at Bank of Hawaii; Vice-President and Manager of Bancorp Life Insurance Company of Hawaii, Inc.; Vice-President and Manager of Bancorp Hawaii Insurance Services, Ltd. Community service includes mediation for the Neighborhood Justice Center and grant writing for the YWCA.

Lorilyn Cramer is a sole practitioner focusing on personal injury, medical malpractice and criminal defense and litigation. Member of the Hawaii bar since 1983.

Sara Harvey is a partner with Sterling and Kleintop, focusing her practice in the area of family law with emphasis

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on custody and family violence. She is a 1993 member of the Board of Directors of HWL.

[ ] Na'unanikina'u Kamali'i's practice focuses in family law. Former lead law clerk to the Honorable Betty M. Vitousek, Senior Judge, Family Court, First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. Currently active in the Native Hawaiian Bar Association.

[ ] Cori Lau is the Executive Director of the Hawaii Institute for Continuing Legal Education and the 1993 president of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

[ ] Patricia McManaman has practiced law for 13 years, primarily in the areas of public interest. Presently a Per Diem Judge with the Family Court, First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

[ ] Carol Muranaka is an attorney in the Office of District Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, which handles U.S. Tax Court cases. An attorney for 17 years, she handles legal matters incident to the assessment and collection of taxes and reviews cases for criminal tax prosecution.

[ ] Magali Richter is a partner with the firm of McKenzie, Trecker & Fritz. An attorney for nine years, she concentrates her practice on personal injury litigation.

[ ] Patricia Riley is the Director of the Judicial Education and Resource Development Program with the Judiciary. A former deputy attorney general, she has practiced law for 7 years.

[ ] Sheila Sue is an associate with the Law Offices of Bradley Coates. An attorney for 10 years, she concentrates her practice in the areas of family law, probate and estate planning.

[ ] Lynne Wasson has been practicing law since 1976. She is a solo practitioner concentrating on family law.

[ ] Robin Wurtzel works at Na Loio no na Kanaka, a non-profit law office representing low income clients in immigration proceedings and civil rights law. She is committed to public interest law and social change. She is a 1993 member of the Board of Directors of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

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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. Please send the following form to P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

Regular member \$40    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 Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119 or Kathy Young at 537-4541, or send a copy to HWL by the end of the month.

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### HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

P.O. Box 2072  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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KATHRYN E. YOUNG  
1447 KEWALO ST., #506  
HONOLULU HI 96822