

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

January 1997

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Secretary: Pamela Berman Byrne 541-2521
Treasurer: Rebecca Williams 921-6530

Directors: Susan Lynn Arnett 586-2200
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Rosemary McShane 523-4878
T. Lynne Wasson 545-2681

1997 HWL Awards Reception to be held February 7th

HWL invites all members and friends to join us at the Plaza Club for tasty pupus and warm camaraderie as we celebrate our achievements of the past year and begin our programs of the new year. We will be recognizing several distinguished women in Hawaii, as well as celebrating the completion of the latest edition of *Our Rights, Our Lives*.

The reception will be held at the Plaza club on Friday, February 7th from 4:30 to 6:30. The cost is \$15 per person, and we are offering script for beverages. To make a reservation, please call Kay Lorraine at 545-8055 or send your check to HWL Organization Headquarters, 76 North King Street, Suite 206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817.

If you have nominations for the HWL Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award or Hawaii Woman Lawyer of the Year, please fax them immediately to HWL President Magali Richter Sunderland at 533-3684. Include a brief (or not so brief) explanation of why you believe your nominee deserves to be recognized.

President's Message

We begin 1997 with a fresh vision of where we are going, and a deep sense of gratitude for those who have given of their time and energy over the past year.

I want to extend a personal thank you to my HWL Board of Directors. This group of women dedicates many hours each month to the projects of the organization. Their names and phone numbers are listed in the masthead of every HWL newsletter because they choose to be completely accessible to all members at all times. I cannot thank them enough for their continued generosity.

The publication of the third edition of *Our Rights, Our Lives* has been a monumental task. Mahalo to HWLF for their patience and support throughout the project. Additionally, I wish to once again express our gratitude to HSBA for acknowledging our efforts to make the law accessible to all people, regardless of their financial situation.

January is the time when we collect our annual membership dues. It is also the beginning of a long-overdue drive for new members. You will find an invoice enclosed in the center section of this month's newsletter. Please complete the information and return it with your check, using the invoice itself as a return envelope.

I look forward to seeing each of you on February 7th.

Hawaii State Bar Association Committee on Gender & Other Fairness Announces Its 1997 Project

As its major 1996-1997 project, the Hawaii State Bar Association's Committee on Gender and Other Fairness is planning to conduct a statewide survey of law firms, the courts, and other law-related institutions to assess gender and racial bias in Hawaii's justice system and the legal profession. The goal of the Committee is to obtain information related to fairness and equity in our legal system and to propose recommendations, including future projects of the Bar, to address these issues.

For the first time in HSBA history, one of its committees will be raising funds from private sources to supplement its modest operating budget. Committee members have made substantial time commitments to this survey project, but the Committee will also need financial and other volunteer support.

Here are some examples of how individuals and organizations can help:

1. By volunteering during specific phases of the survey project, such as efforts to follow up with those responding to the survey and assisting in data compilation;
2. By assisting the Committee in one of more of its fundraising projects such as donating or soliciting funds or drafting grant applications; and
3. By providing input regarding the specific issues to be addressed by the project.

In the next few months, the Committee will be conducting its first fundraising campaign and recruiting additional volunteers for the project. For more information, please contact any of the Committee representatives listed below.

To assist in fundraising: Jan Tamura (523-9833, ext. 104)

To volunteer time: Cara Ching (544-8300)
or Jan Tamura (523-9833, ext 104)

**To provide input (By January 31, 1997)
regarding the survey project:**

Stephanie Chin or Kelly Patch (523-6000),
John Ishihara (586-8636) or

Chiye Wenkam (inquiries by Fax only please: 536-8665).

Elizabeth Pa Martin to be Honored at HWLF Reception Friday, January 10th

The annual meeting and reception for members and friends of Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation will feature Elizabeth Martin, Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council. Ms. Martin will be presented with The Rhoda Lewis Award for Public Service.

The Native Hawaiian Advisory Council is an educational and legal support group for Native Hawaiians. Formed in May of 1988, under Ms. Martin's leadership the NHAC has assisted the Native Hawaiian community in increasing their exercise of local control and decision-making authority over land, water and resources, with a special emphasis on water resources. NHAC has provided training and technical assistance to organizations (including West Maui Moloka'i Taro Farmers, Ka Lahui Hawai'i and Native Planters) seeking funds from the Administration for Native Americans for governance, social, and economic development projects. Hui Na'auao, with NHAC's assistance, secured a million dollar grant for a three-year sovereignty and self-determination education project. The NHAC 1993 Hawaiian Water Law Symposium resulted in significant resolutions to protect Hawaiian water resources. Additionally, NHAC represents OHA in the Waiahole Ditch Combined Contested Case Hearing. Judge Walter Heen (retired) is lead counsel in the case.

Elizabeth Pa Martin is an alumni of The Kamehameha Schools, Chaminade University, University of Portland and William S. Richardson School of Law. As a sole practitioner, she practiced general civil law with emphasis on trust law, family, child and parent advocacy, real estate law, insurance defense and subrogation. In addition to serving as NHAC's Executive Director since its formation, Ms. Martin is also a consultant with Development Associates, providing training and technical assistance to eligible agencies applying to the Administration for Native Americans to develop and implement social and economic development projects designed to strengthen the self-sufficiency of the Native Hawaiian community through support of social and economic strategies and the strengthening of local governance capabilities.

Her record of community service is legendary. At the present time Ms. Martin represents Native Hawaiians on the State Marine and Coastal Management Advisory Group, and is a member of the State Department of Health Goals Communications Team for the Environmental Health Division. She also serves as a Board Director for the Academy of the Pacific as well as Hawaii Coordinator of the American Bar Association, International Law and Practice Women's Interest Group Section.

An accomplished author and editor of books and other publications, her latest project, *The History and Status of Native Hawaiians under United States and International Law*, is due to go to press later this year.

Elizabeth Pa Martin flew to Geneva Switzerland for the Eleventh Session of the UN Working Group and Indigenous

Populations. Her efforts helped draft the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Although I am touched by this award, and honored by its significance, I believe there is a greater importance attached to this occasion," says Ms. Martin. "In making this gesture, the Foundation is recognizing the critical importance of the progress our society is making in the issues facing Native Hawaiians, and the Foundation is blessing with aloha, the work that remains. Mahalo nui loa a aloha pumehana. Malama pono."

The Rhoda Lewis Award for Public Service is sponsored by Esther and Clifford Arinaga, and recognizes significant contributions in the area of public service within the community. The award is named in honor of Rhoda Lewis, who was Hawaii's first woman supreme court justice.

For more information call Mary Houghton at 396-8506.

Public Administration Program UH Fellowship Available

March 1st Deadline For Both Enrollment and Fellowship

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa offers two unique programs designed to enhance leadership resources among those committed to public service careers. Both a one-year Certificate and a Master's Degree are available. Each program meets the scheduling needs of the full-time working individual.

The Public Administration Program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa began in 1984 as a year-long certificate program. It has expanded to include a master's degree, which admitted its first MPA class in the Fall of 1991. The mission of both is to increase leadership resources for public service in Hawai'i and the Pacific. Each emphasizes an integrated, cross-disciplinary curriculum and the development of positive, lasting relationships between participants.

Because the University of Hawai'i is committed to the value of broad and equal representation, the program makes special efforts to attract women. To this end, financial assistance is available through the Herman S. Doi Memorial Fellowship, for those who may find the cost prohibitive.

Both the thirty-credit Master's Degree and the one-year Certificate programs are designed for working professionals wishing to begin or expand a public service career. A prerequisite Baccalaureate degree, with a 3.0 GPA is required for each program.

The application deadline is March 1, 1997. For information, send a request to:

Public Administration Program
College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai'i
2424 Maile Way
Porteus Hall 631
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-8260
Fax: (808) 956-9571

You can also check out their web site at:
<http://www.soc.hawaii.edu/css/dept/>

HWL Launches Drive To Attract New Members

Are you a dues-paying member of HWL? Were you once a member, but had to drop out because of other commitments? Are you looking for ways to get involved in your community, or in Bar-related activities? Are you looking for ways to develop your practice and professional development?

Look again. You want HWL, and HWL wants you.

HWL's Board of Directors is launching a year-long drive to attract new members to HWL, and to broaden its membership base. As part of the drive, HWL will be offering a one-time discount on annual dues and embarking on special recruitment efforts.

"We have a solid core of dues-paying members, but we can always use new blood," said HWL President Magali Sunderland. "Especially when we need to mount more community programs for needy women and children in the community, as well as programs for women lawyers."

1997 annual renewal fees for current members are being kept at their very modest rates of **\$40 for regular members, \$20 for out-of-state members, and \$20 for new Bar admittees. New members, and lapsed members who return to HWL in 1997, will get a 50% discount off this year's dues. And new law student members will not be assessed any annual dues at all for 1997!**

HWL's New Membership Committee will head up the drive. HWL Vice President Susan Ichinose and her committee--Na'u Kamali'i, Marjorie Au, Cheryl Okuma-Sepe, Sheila Vierra, and Stacy Fukuhara welcome any suggestions and assistance from other members.

"We need to get involved in legal issues that affect the lives of women and children in Hawaii," said Susan. "And we need to develop more contacts within our developing professional network of women."

If you'd like more information, call Kay Lorraine at the HWL office, or you can fill out the form below and send it to: HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Remember your discount if you are a new member.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____ (fax) _____

Enclosed please find my 1997 HWL dues payment of \$ _____. I have checked the appropriate boxes below:

- Renewing member
- New or lapsed member (1997 discount applicable)

- Member of the Hawaii State Bar Association (\$40 annual dues)
- 1996 admittee to the Hawaii State Bar Association (\$20 annual dues)
- Out-of-state, retired, or non-practicing lawyer (\$20 annual dues)
- Currently enrolled law student (\$10 annual dues)

HWL President's Circle: \$100 \$500 \$1,000

- I am interested in serving on the HWL Board or working Committees, and/or assisting on legislative issues for the upcoming session.

Member Signature

Date

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Return Address:

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**Hawaii Women Lawyers
Organization Headquarters
76 North King Street, Suite 206
Honolulu, HI 96817**

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Partnership with HWL Creates Community Pride in Palolo

A partnership between the Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education, Hawaii Women Lawyers, the YMCA, Housing Authority, PACT and other concerned community groups resulted in a successful community mural project in Palolo Valley this past fall. The goal was to involve the larger community in a mural that would beautify Palolo, and at the same time build self-esteem and pride in the young participants from the housing project itself.

The Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education (HAAE) has worked in Kalihi for several years, helping local children incorporate the arts into their daily lives. With overall funding having been cut back in recent years, Hawai'i public schools no longer offer arts education with any regularity. This is particularly hard on children from low-income families whose artistic talents are left with no place for expression except graffiti. HAAE works with young people to teach them how to more constructively express themselves in creative and appropriate ways.

Samoan Artist Plants the Seed

Sekio Fuapopo, a Samoan artist from the bay area was coming though Hawai'i in September, enroute to Samoa, and he wanted to work with a local community of Samoan/local youth in some creative capacity. The seed of an idea was sown. Melcanna Mayer, a Hawaiian artist and educator already working with youth in the housing projects in Kalihi was approached and asked to kokua, to assist in finding a proper venue for this visiting artist.

Palolo valley housing was chosen as the site of the community mural project because of its large Samoan population. Also, graffiti is a tremendous problem in the valley. By providing a comprehensive hands-on learning experience, the youngsters were able to work together to create a piece of art which belongs to the community as a whole. Art which, hopefully, no one will want to graffiti.

HWL Approves Funding Immediately

Hawaii Women Lawyers Board members Na'u Kamali'i and Lynne Wasson attended the first planning meeting, along with representatives from twelve other community organizations. At the very next HWL Board meeting, funding for the mural was approved and, with the full support of HAAE, this project was on its way.

The youngsters experienced more than just painting during the course of their participation. They learned about cooperation, collaboration, and respecting the other guy's space. By doing preparatory thumbnail sketches in charcoal during the week before the actual painting, they learned about spatial relationships, organization of thoughts, and the self-discipline that is required in planning a large project.

Through the dedication of adult volunteers, the young people came to realize that people care about their lives. And everyone felt a sense of pride in seeing that the work they had planned for and talked about the week before was now up on the walls and becoming a reality.

Hawaii Women Lawyers is proud to have been able to provide the funding for this project. As lawyers, HWL members help people within the community solve problems. As *people*, HWL members try to find opportunities to help others *before* they have problems with the law. The Palolo Valley Community Mural Project is just such an opportunity. If we can find other such venues to nurture and support our youth, teaching them to express themselves in constructive ways, perhaps we can create better citizens for Hawaii's future.

Mahalo to Na'u and Lynne for the time and energy which they have devoted to this project. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education, for allowing us to be a part of this community outreach effort. We are looking forward to similar collaborations in the future.

If you'd like further information on the Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education contact Marilyn Cristorfori, Executive Director at 942-4708.

HWL Mentor Program to Begin in January

By Stacy Fukuhara

This year HWL has instituted a mentor-mentee program for our members. We will be matching women lawyers from all over Hawaii with law students who are interested in practicing in the state. We would like to solicit volunteers from all different fields of practice.

For those of you who have always wanted to get more involved in HWL but did not have the time, this is the perfect opportunity. It will take just a few hours a month, however the rewards are great. There are so many reasons to become a mentor. You will feel good about helping a woman law student learn more about the realities of practicing law. This is also a great opportunity to meet women law students, future attorneys in your field, and to help encourage them to get involved in HWL.

As most of us know, there are many benefits to being a mentee. Students can meet a practicing attorney who could serve as a valuable resource person. She will give you first-hand information about how it is to be a woman in the law, and tips on what employers look for in an employee.

After we match up mentors and mentees, we will send you each a letter with the phone number of your mentor or mentee. Once you have talked on the phone and set a time to meet, we suggest that a good start is lunch and a tour of the mentor's office. After that, you can decide on how often to meet. A reception is planned for all participating members during school break. This will give you a chance to meet other members.

For more information on this new program, please contact Susan Ichinose at 536-3255.

The People's Fund Sponsors "Ka Huliau, A Time for Linking Struggles" January 31 through February 2nd in Honolulu

The People's Fund is sponsoring Ka Huliau, a conference for activists, community organizers, and individuals interested in learning about a broad range of social change issues. Ka Huliau presents an opportunity to network and build alliance with other activists working for social, economic, and environmental justice. The goal is to join Hawaii's issues together to become more effective in the face of the emerging global economy.

This is a time for coming together to hear both national and international perspectives about important issues that impact our work. Ka Huliau will be exploring common ground and developing strategies for linking efforts for a more effective voice for social change.

Guest speakers will include Carolina Jimenez-Almeda, a union organizer from the Philippines, who will address the impact of the global economy on working women; Nelson Peery, founding member of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America and the author of *Black Fire: The Making of an American Revolutionary*; Monica Moorehead, a labor organizer who has been involved in anti-racism work since the mid-seventies; Judy Hatcher, Director of Grantmaking and Education for the Funding Exchange (FEX), a national network of progressive foundations; Scot Nakagawa, a community activist who is an expert on the right wing agenda and the Christian Coalition. He is former director of The Coalition for Human Dignity and a past organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Mab Segrest, head of the Urban/Rural Mission Organizing Network/United Church of Christ. A white lesbian from North Carolina, Mab authored *Memoirs of a Race Trader*, and is a leader opposing the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, neo-nazis and other extremist groups.

This event will be held at the McCoy Pavilion at the Ala Moana Beach Park in Honolulu. Workshops are planned in the areas of Houselessness, Political Economy, Sovereignty/Independence, Labor Movement, Environmental Justice, Prison/Poverty/Drugs/Crime, Imperialism & the Military, Women for Transformation, Gay Liberation, Youth, Racism, Class and Colonialism, Natural Resources, Tourism & Development, Health & Welfare with Plenary Sessions on Tips for Successful Grant Proposals, plus Reflections and Strategies for Organizing & Building Skills. Whew!!

For information please contact Ka Huliau coordinator, Cha Smith at 841-2176 or The People's Fund at 526-2441.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS
P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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