

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

April 1997

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HWL Holds Emergency Press Conference April 12th at State Capitol *Newspaper, Radio & Television Stations Respond*

At noon on Saturday, April 12th, Hawai'i Women Lawyers held an emergency press conference in the rotunda of the state capitol building to call attention to the impending demise of the Hawai'i State Clearinghouse for Missing Children (aka Missing Child Center Hawai'i)

At the time of the press conference, the bills had moved through both the House and Senate without any definite funding commitment. Without state funding of \$86,000, the Missing Child Center will close their doors, and more than \$400,000 of private-sector money will vanish.

The issue is now sitting in the state Legislature's Joint Conference Committee, which has less than two weeks left to decide the fate of the program. As of Monday, April 14th, the members of the committee had not yet been appointed.



Saturday's press conference was covered by channels 2, 4 and 9, all of whom carried feature pieces on their 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. newscasts. A story by staff reporter Mike Gordon ran in the Sunday edition of the Honolulu Advertiser. Radio news reposts as well as talk shows also featured the situation.

HWL board member and private practice attorney Daphne Barbee-Wooten spoke eloquently on behalf of Hawai'i Women Lawyers. An estimated crowd of 70 additional concerned citizens backed the speakers, some carrying signs of support and others waving a one-dollar bill (the amount of money that this legislature has appropriated to the measure).

Send 33¢ to Show Your Support

During the press conference it was revealed that if the \$86,000 appropriation was divided by all children under the age of 15 in the state of Hawai'i, it would amount to about 33¢ per child. In a spontaneous gesture, adman Paul Klink immediately wrote a check to the State of Hawai'i General Fund for 33¢ in the name of his son Max. "Fortunately, I know where Max is this afternoon," Klink told the group. "I consider this insurance against the unthinkable possibility that if Max were ever missing, I need to know that the Missing Child Center Hawai'i would be there to recover him." Since the weekend, the HWL office has fielded a number of calls asking where members can send their 33¢ checks. HWL is suggesting that they be sent to House Speaker Joseph Souki (room 431) or Senate President Norman Mizuguchi (room 003) at the capitol building (zip code 96813).

Calendar of Events

- **Friday, April 18, 3:30 p.m.**
Workshop concerning legal research on the Internet at Goodwill Anderson Quin & Stifel (free)
- **Friday, April 25, 12 noon**
YWCA Women's Resource Center Celebration (free)
- **Friday, April 25, 3:30 p.m.**
Workshop on employee management at the HSBA Conference Room (free)
- **Thursday, May 1, 12 noon**
Lawyer Kokua Brown Bag Seminar "Civil Motions in the Circuit Court" at the HSBA Conference Room (free)
- **Thursday, May 8, 5:30 p.m.**
Professional Women's Network Open House (read Party) at Kincaids (\$12)

“Women in Leadership - Sharing the Vision” Publication Released

The Leadership Institute of Columbia College (Columbia, SC) recently published its premiere journal devoted to women and leadership. “Women in Leadership - Sharing the Vision” is dedicated to developing new approaches to leadership, and focuses on who women all over the world are reshaping their global leadership destiny through innovative styles of managing and leading in business and government.

The bi-annual publication is intended for those who; aspire to be global leaders, professionals, government administrators, and public policy makers. It addresses issues such as the emergence of women leaders, especially in non-traditional fields; new approaches to conflict resolution; and leadership in developing countries.

The journal acts as a compass guiding readers to alternative paths to meet their needs in a rapidly changing world. It also focuses on practical applications that make a difference for women leaders of today and tomorrow, and keeps readers informed of current research and theories. Additionally, the journal is a forum for creative debate and dialogue among women in similar roles across the nation and around the world.

The premiere journal and each publication will include provocative and sometimes controversial articles addressing subjects selected to meet the needs of women leaders as well as women who aspire to be leaders. The contributors, including government officials, business leaders and academic experts, are from all over the world.

For more information, or to subscribe to this premiere journal, contact Dr. Trudie Kibble Reed at Columbia College of South Carolina, P.O. Box 3815, Columbia, SC 29203-3815. You can call Dr. Reed at (803) 786-3728.

Voting Deadline April 21st

1997 Neighborhood Board Elections

Oahu's Neighborhood Board System was created to increase community participation in government by involving residents in the decisions affecting them. Currently, there are 32 Neighborhood Boards throughout Oahu. (Actually, 31 if you don't count Mililani.)

Each Board is comprised of elected volunteer members who serve two-year terms. Your Neighborhood Board represents your community in an advisory role to all levels of government and their various agencies. It functions as the grass roots level of government by addressing the issues and concerns facing the community.

Ballots and information packets went into the mail at the end of March. All ballots must be postmarked no later than April 21st. No hand delivered ballots will be accepted. If you have any questions about the 1997 Neighborhood Board Election, call the Neighborhood Commission office at 527-5579, Monday through Friday.

Two Legal Workshops Available in April *“Using Information Technology for Legal Research” and “Recruitment, Retention, Discharge”*

On the last two Fridays in April, two more Practice Management Workshops will be held in Honolulu.

April 18th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Marty McKenzie and Kermit Fruechte, from Lexis-Nexis Corporation Technical Services Group (TSG), will conduct a seminar on legal research on the Internet. Mr. McKenzie is a licensed attorney in Chicago and has credentials as a Novell Certified Netware Engineer. The presentation will deal with CD-Rom, Internet and On-Line legal research. This workshop will be held in Conference Rooms B,C, D at Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, 18th floor of 1099 Alakea Street.

On April 25th, also from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Gregory Sato, partner in the employment law section of the Torkildson Katz Fonseca Jaffe Moore & Heatherington law firm will be presenting a workshop on “Recruitment, Retention, Discharge.” Mr. Sato is a Senior Human Resource Professional, and a member of the Society of Human Resource Management. He says, “It sometimes seems easier to manage your case load than your staff. Recruitment, retention and, when necessary, discharge of your employees can be a major commitment of time and sometimes resources. Learn what steps you should and must take to create a working environment that is fair to you and your employees.” This workshop will be held at the Hawai'i State Bar Association Conference Room located at 1136 Union Mall, PH-1 in downtown Honolulu.

Practice Management Workshops are free to all members of the HSBA and their staff. Please call Lyn at 537-1868 to reserve seating for either of these workshops.

“Our Rights, Our Lives” Distributed Throughout the Community

By Magali Sunderland

The third edition of “Our Rights, Our Lives,” the series of six booklets that provide a guide to women's rights in Hawai'i have been distributed to libraries, universities, social service organizations, support groups, civic organizations, unions, shelters, military posts and senior citizens.

Great thanks to Board member Rosemary McShane and our resident guardian angel, executive assistant Kay Lorraine, for yeoman work in getting 7,654 copies of these booklets distributed thus far.

Special thanks also to Renee Correia, Amy Murakami, Mark G.S. Au, Neil Murakami, Tommy Waters, Board member Susan Arnett and 11-year-old Mack Dator for giving up evening, weekend and spare (?) time hours to collate, bundle, box and help deliver the sets.

We have depleted about 70% of our initial printing, and are already receiving reorder requests which we are trying to fill as quickly as possible, extra copies permitting.

Staff Attorney Position Open

For Investigation & Litigation of Cases

The Hawai'i office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is looking for a Staff Attorney with responsibilities that would include the investigation, development and litigation of an active caseload in federal and state courts. S/he will work both independently and as a member of a team representing the interests of diverse groups of clients and managing all aspects of public interest advocacy, including media outreach, grant development and coalition building.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is a national non-profit, public interest law firm providing high quality litigation and advocacy services to the environmental community. The Hawai'i office's work emphasizes the protection of endangered species and marine mammals; coastal waters, streams and groundwater; shorelines and public lands; environmental justice and native Hawaiian rights.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is an equal employment opportunity employer and encourages applications from women, people of color and members of other underrepresented groups who will contribute to the diversity of its staff.

Requirements for the position are five or more years of civil litigation experience and timely admittance to the Hawai'i bar. Also required are excellent written and oral advocacy skills, solid academic record, commitment to environmental justice, ability to be a team player, eagerness to rock the boat responsibly and to have fun doing it, and a strong work ethic. Salary DOE; excellent and other benefits.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume, law school transcript, legal writing sample, and a list of three professional references to:

Paul Achitoff
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
223 South King Street, Suite 400
Honolulu HI 96813-4501

We Want To Give You Money!!!

Well, not really you, and maybe not even money, but hope we got your attention. Hawai'i Women Lawyers is always looking for new project ideas. If you are currently involved in any community agency, board, group, or bunch that has a project in which it might be appropriate for us to assist, **LET US KNOW!** Or, if you just have an idea that has been stewing around in your mind for a while, and you think it relates to our mission statement, **GIVE US A CALL!**

When a project requires money (in addition to the usual blood, sweat and tears) we need to make plans early, so that we can include it in our next fiscal year budget. It's never too early to start thinking about fiscal year 1998-1999, so please feel free to drop us a line or call one of your Board members if you have an idea. The names and phone numbers of the entire Board are contained in the masthead of each HWL Newsletter.

By Susan Arnett

Professional Women's Network

Open House at Kincaids on May 8th

On Thursday, May 8th, between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., the Professional Women's Network will be holding their annual Pau Hana Open House at Kincaids in Ward Warehouse. The cost is \$12, a price which includes tax and tip. Heavy pupus will be served in addition to a No Host bar at Happy Hour prices.

The Professional Women's Network is group of local professional women, many of whom are self employed, and all of whom **could use a good lawyer!**

This affair will be a great networking opportunity; a chance to meet interesting professional women outside your normal legal circle, eat great food (it is, after all, Kincaids), maybe win a door prize, and definitely have a lot of fun.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by May 1st by calling 533-4800 and mailing your checks payable to PWN, P.O. Box 37052, Honolulu, HI 96837. Be sure to include your name, company name and phone number.

Ke Kulana Wahine

Grand Opening Celebration April 25th

Women's Resource Center

At noon, on Friday, April 25th, the YWCA of O'ahu will celebrate the opening of Ke Kulana Wahine, their new Women's Resource Center. A program and refreshments will immediately follow the Blessing. Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono will be the guest speaker.

Ke Kulana Wahine is designed to provide women of the community with a place to gather, share resources and find support, most especially during periods of transition. A joint project with the Junior League of Honolulu and the Soroptimists International of Waikiki, will offer pro bono consultations and referral services with volunteer professionals, as well as workshops and seminars on finance, career development, health education and legal advice. The Center will be located on 3rd floor of the YWCA at Laniakea, sharing the space with Hawai'i Lawyers Care.

Community Resource File of Services

Marylucia Arace, Educational Program Manager, will oversee a volunteer staff working with a library of reference resources and access to an ASK2000 database. The Center's Board is currently working on the acquisition of a dedicated Xerox on site, as well as computers with Internet access for both public and staff use. Contributing to the Center's Library, Hawai'i Women Lawyers has delivered over 100 full sets of "Our Rights, Our Lives."

The Center is in need of volunteers with basic computer skills who can spare two hours per week. Call 538-7061 ext. 250 for details.

If you would like to attend the celebration, please make a reservation by calling 538-7061, ext. 207 before April 21st.

Na Loio No Na Kanaka

The Lawyers for the People of Hawai'i; Celebrating Fourteen Years of Public Service

In August of 1983, attorney William Hoshijo and a core of dedicated supporters, identified the immigrant poor in our state as a group which needed direct legal services. Na Loio No Na Kanaka (The Lawyers for the People of Hawai'i) began as a modest program offering legal assistance without charge to immigrants who qualified under stringent income guidelines. It is now celebrating its 14th anniversary of public service.

Na Loio No Na Kanaka does not duplicate the work performed by other organizations, but provides services in areas not covered by the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and other agencies. Located in the Palama Settlement on North Vineyard Boulevard, the Na Loio Immigration Law Project is the only agency in Hawai'i providing legal representation for indigent immigrants in deportation, exclusion, amnesty, and political asylum cases. They also litigate selected cases with significant social and political impact, including civil rights, discrimination, and constitutional law cases.

The Immigration Law Project

Na Loio has represented over 825 clients, many of whom are eligible for legal remedies but cannot win them without representation. The immigrants' fight is even more difficult today. Federal legislation enacted in 1996 severely curtails the rights of immigrants. Certain provisions became effective April 1st of this year. Na Loio and other immigration advocates have joined with the ACLU in a constitutional challenge of the portion of the new law which empowers an immigration officer to immediately expel an improperly documented foreigner at the border entry, without any appeal process. These summary exclusions unfairly deprive foreigners of their right to claim political asylum. The challenge was heard in U.S. District Court in Washington D.C. on April 4th, but Judge Emmet Sullivan declined to grant the restraining order.

Welfare Rights

The welfare reform law Congress passed last August will bar most legal immigrants from collecting Supplemental Security Income, "basic needs" benefits provided to the elderly, blind, and disabled who cannot obtain Social Security. Effective April 1st, the new law also cut off food stamps, which supplement SSI payments in most cases, as well as eliminating Medicaid health insurance.

Although Gov. Ben Cayetano has joined Na Loio and other immigrant groups across the country in urging Congress to amend the law, the Social Security Administration estimates that 2,310 immigrants in Hawai'i are likely to lose benefits. Another 1,026 probably are eligible to continue receiving benefits, but will need to prove their eligibility. Na Loio will be assisting in that effort.

Advocates For Immigrant Women

In 1988 Na Loio organized the Advocates for Immigrant Women (AIW). Working with legal aid

attorneys, immigrant services agencies, domestic violence agencies, and women's shelters, AIW has successfully fought to protect battered immigrant women in abusive marriages to United States citizen husbands, allowing the women to get out of danger without losing their legal immigrant status. In 1990, AIW was part of a broad national coalition which lobbied successfully for a "battered spouse waiver" to the Marriage Fraud Amendment.

Civil Rights

Na Loio has worked on a number of civil rights cases involving issues of employment discrimination, sexual harassment, equal protection, and freedom of religion. They have also supported the efforts to establish a State Civil Rights Commission, and to ensure effective enforcement of our civil rights laws.

Sovereignty, Same Sex Marriage, & Hawaiian Language Rights

In 1994 Na Loio joined with other civil rights groups in opposition to legislative efforts to diminish constitutional equal protection in response to the same sex marriage issue.

They have worked with others in the civil rights community to support the struggle for Hawaiian sovereignty. Na Loio joined a legal defense team for Hawaiians unjustly arrested at Iolani Palace on Kamehameha Day, 1992.

Na Loio played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Hawai'i Council on Language Planning and Policy, which seeks to promote inclusiveness, diversity, multi-culturalism, and multi-lingualism.

In 1996, Na Loio joined the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation to submit an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in *Yniguez v. Arizonans for Official English*, in opposition to Arizona's English-Only constitutional provision.

Annual Fundraiser Dinner in May

On Friday, May 30th, Na Loio No Na Kanaka will honor HWL member Judy M. Weightman, Bill Hoshijo, and Anki Hoshijo, three individuals whose moral courage and belief in equality and justice have had an enduring impact upon our community.

Civil Rights Activist, William "Bill" Hoshijo

William "Bill" Hoshijo, co-founder of Na Loio guided it through thirteen years of growth as its Executive Director. Working on a starting salary of \$12,000 a year, all of which he had to raise himself, Bill supplemented his income as a part-time lecturer in the UH Ethnic Studies Department, teaching the fall semester course "Race, Class and the Law" since 1984. Under his leadership, Na Loio took on issues that changed the landscape of civil rights in Hawai'i. His strength lies in his ability to collectively organize people and community groups to work together to advance civil rights and immigrants' rights. Hoshijo's January appointment as

Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Right Commission was a natural progression in his lifelong work as a civil rights advocate. The appointment seemed only fitting, considering that his 1988 and 1989 lobbying of the Legislature resulted in the creation of the commission. At the time, Hawai'i was one of only a handful in the nation that did not have a state agency charged with protecting the civil rights of its citizens. Connected administratively to the state Labor Department, the Hawai'i Civil Right Commission is responsible for ensuring that citizens of Hawai'i are not denied employment, housing or public accommodations on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry or disability.

No Loio's Silent Partner, Andy "Anki" Hoshijo

Bill's father, Andy "Anki" Hoshijo, was a silent partner in Na Loio No Na Kanaka's early years, providing needed financial management and accounting services without pay for all but one year until his death in 1992. Anki's parents migrated from Okinawa to the Big Island to work sugar at Amaulu Camp #4, where Anki was born and raised. A promising boxing career was interrupted by W.W.II, where he was awarded the bronze star before being severely wounded near the rescue point of the famed "Lost Battalion." He attended Northwestern University, earning both his BA and MBA, before returning to Hawai'i from Chicago. After a teaching stint as UH, he went to work for the IRS, progressing through field agent and retiring as a pension specialist.

At Na Loio, he kept the structure of the organization on a good footing by emphasizing that even a small non-profit organization needs to be run like a business. He agonized over the unique problems that small non-profits often face. The first time he looked at Na Loio's books, he informed the Executive Director (who was also his son) that in all of his years he'd never seen any other books or financial statements that worked on such a shoestring, month-to-month basis, with absolutely no reserves at all. Anki immediately set a goal of getting the non-profit in better financial shape. His business acumen provided an invaluable service to Na Loio's financial growth, and he is sorely missed.

Judy M. Weightman

Embodiment of the Spirit of Justice and Equality

Is there any area in which this unique woman does *not* excel?

Veterans love her. Her "Portrait of an AJA Soldier" is a mainstay on Oceanic Cable and Olelo. The 442nd Veterans Club recently awarded her the Kansha Medallion. She conceived the Brothers In Valor Monument, a memorial to Hawaii's AJA W.W.II veterans, now under construction at Fort DeRussy.

The educational world has honored her on the mainland with the Silver Apple Award, and here in Hawai'i as a No Kana Hana Ho'Onauao Nominee for leadership and excellence in Hawaiian education (the only non-Hawaiian nominated).

This past October, the Jewish community held a dinner in her honor, calling her *Ayshet Chayil* (woman of valor).

The national film industry has awarded her the CINE Golden Eagle Award, the CINDY International Bronze Medallion, and the New York Festivals Bronze World Medal for her documentaries.

The legal community bestowed the Distinguished Service Award at a reception held by Hawai'i Women Lawyers this past February.

A distinguished author, museums have honored Judy Weightman by featuring copies of her books and films at the Japanese American National Museum, the Simon Wisenthal Center in Los Angeles, Yad Vashem in Israel, and the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. Her films have also appeared in Chicago, Seattle, Utah, Shanghai, Singapore, Portugal and China.

She is one of the founders of the Afro-American Lawyers Association, although she is not African American.

Native Hawaiian attorneys praise the Law School's Pre-Admission Program to insure that underrepresented groups gain admittance into law school, a program which Judy has headed up for the past ten years.

Senator Akaka speaks of her "genuine commitment to her profession." Senator Inouye has commended her "compassion and public concern." She has been recognized by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Hawaii State Legislature, U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, Mayor Harris and the City Council.

Bill Hoshijo describes her as "a woman totally committed to raised social consciousness. Judy does not just teach an abstract political commitment; she imparts to her law students a real zeal for doing pro bono work. Her dedication to public interest law results in a ripple effect on the community at large."

Patricia McManaman, Executive Director for Na Loio No Na Kanaka complains that "Judy is irrepensible. She's chronically happy and upbeat. Her uplifting enthusiasm for people, justice, civil liberties and causes is never ending. She makes the rest of us look bad in comparison. She can't just go to a meeting like everybody else. She immediately takes it all on herself. She'll go home and make phone calls, organize everything, and **you will see an end result.** Part of the reason for her track record in results is her great network. The woman knows everybody! And everybody knows that when Judy calls, it will never be for her own advancement.

"She has demonstrated time and again her moral courage to stand up and do what's right. She never shies away from unpopular or controversial issues. Her life is filled with public service. The woman does everything. She doesn't know where to stop."

Did we mention that Judy Weightman is also an inventor?

Call Now to Place a Congratulatory Ad or Buy a Ticket to the Dinner

If you would like to buy tickets for Na Loio No Na Kanaka's fundraising dinner on May 30th, or place a congratulatory ad in their program (ad rates are unbelievably cheap), just call Kamaile at 847-8828.

Nominations for HWL Board and Officers Now Open

*The work is hard, the pay is lousy,
but you get to wield power ruthlessly.*

The current term of office for HWL officers and Board members is coming to a close (June 30th, to be exact), so we're accepting nominations for the 1997-98 term. Any attorney whose HWL membership is in good standing is eligible to serve. Call Kay at the HWL office (545-8055) to check on your membership status, if you're in doubt. To serve as Treasurer, you must also be a CPA.

Duties of the Board include attendance at a one-hour noon meeting, held on the first Wednesday of each month. Board members are also expected to voluntarily participate in HWL projects to the best of their abilities.

If you are interested in running for an HWL office or Board position, please submit your nomination accompanied by a brief write-up on yourself, telling the members what you would like to accomplish during your term. Fax your nomination to 545-8636 or send it to HWL Organization Headquarters, 76 North King Street, Suite 206, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817.

Nominations will close on May 15th. Ballots will be mailed to all HWL members on June 1st.

Participation in the Board is your opportunity to change those things that you feel need improvement within the organization. It's also an opportunity to take a higher profile within the legal community. But most importantly, serving on the Board is a chance work on worthwhile community projects with an intelligent group of women lawyers who just happen to be a whole lot of fun.

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

Congratulations To:

Carole Richelieu, who was officially named as Chief Disciplinary Council of the Office of Disciplinary Council. Carole has been serving as Acting Chief.

Magali V. Sunderland, who was appointed to a five-year term by the Hawai'i Supreme Court as Trustee of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (Clients' Trust Fund).

Louise K.Y. Ing, who welcomed an adopted baby girl into her family. Louise named the child **Julia** (for her mother) **York Lan** (in honor of her mother-in-law) **Ku'upau-kahakikauikamahina Sitch**. Loosely translated, it means "my beloved flower from a distant land, placed with mahina." Mahina, which means moon, is also Louise's Hawaiian name.



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