

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

February 2001

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Brown Bag Lunch:
What Does The
HSBA Have To
Offer?

WHO: David Louie,
HSBA President,
Russ Awakuni,
HSBA/YLD President,
Coralie Chun
Matayoshi,
Executive Director

WHEN: Tues., Feb. 27, 2001
12 noon

WHERE: Cades Schutte
Fleming & Wright
Main Conference Rm.
1000 Bishop Street,
12th Floor

WHY: Come and find out how
bar involvement can help in your
practice. How are the officers
and directors elected? What do
they do? What other positions
are available?

QUESTIONS?
Contact Joy Miyasaki,
Jmiyasaki@aol.com

March is:
**Women's History Month and
Alternative Dispute
Resolution Month** in
Hawaii. HWL's March
29th Brown Bag Lunch will
be about Incorporating
ADR in Your Career.
Watch for more
information in next
month's newsletter!

**YWCA of Oahu's
2001 Leaderluncheon**
is on May 11, 2001. Reserve
your seat for this worthwhile
and inspiring lunch. Contact
Judy Allen at 538-7061 ext.
210 for more information.

HWL Celebrates 25 Years



On January 12, 2001, HWL celebrated its 25th Birthday by installing new officers, and honoring some of Hawaii's top Women Lawyers and Achievers.

With over 160 people in attendance, it was an overwhelming success.

**Happy 25th Birthday
HWL!**

Pictured above: Award Winners (left to right) Bernice Littman, Donna Tancoue, Ellen Godbey Carson, Lt. Governor, Mazie Hirono (making a special appearance to congratulate the winners), Rai Saint Chu, and Emme Tomimbang.

Top Right: (left to right) New President, Melissa Pavlicek presenting a gift to outgoing President, Nancye Bethurem, for her dedicated service and hard work.

Immediate Right: Charlene Shimada, of McCutchen Doyle of San Francisco, delivers the keynote speech.
More pictures on page two!



HWL's Nominee Wins YWCA Award

The HWL Board secretly nominated Clarice Cornet, President of Wahine Builders, for one of the YWCA's annual Leaderluncheon Awards.

On January 6th, 2001 members of the HWL Board, and the President and Committee Chairs of the Leaderluncheon Awards surprised Clarice at the worksite of the Habitat for Humanity House on Pele Street with the announcement that Clarice was chosen as one of three women to be honored on May 11, 2001.

The YWCA's Leaderluncheon brings together 1,500 people each year to honor and be inspired by exemplary women who have contributed to the betterment of our community and organizations that support women's advancement in society.



Each time a lawyer I know leaves for a mainland job, drifts away because of a hectic schedule, becomes ill or passes away, I mourn the loss of a colleague, friend or mentor. Lawyers must fight as hard as anyone to maintain friendships in the face of stress, billable hours and the temptation to be superachievers.

Recently, my mother suggested that I instead celebrate time spent with those I've lost, saying that the definition of a friend is one who walks beside us for a time on the path of life.

One woman lawyer who no longer walks beside me is Judy Weightman. She touched many in the Hawai'i legal community, changing us for the better. We lost Judy to cancer three years ago, but I refuse to take her card out of my rolodex. Each time I flip past it, I recall her willingness to take on any challenge and her ability to make each friend feel as if they were a treasure.

Judy was my instructor at U.H. A few in my class found her style soft, believing that law must be cold, harsh and Socratic. But her compassion belied Judy's standards, which were higher than most. Though she was one of just a handful of my women lawyer mentors, I realized at her funeral that she had dozens- or more like hundreds - of other friends, students and colleagues who felt the same way about her. Her capacity for caring was unparalleled.

There are many woman lawyers who walk beside us now. Past HWL President Ellen Godbey Carson was the keynote speaker when I was sworn into the bar. Her admonition to take charge of our careers, our time, our lives, stays with me still. Immediate Past President Nancy Bethurem's tireless volunteerism; Donna Tanoue's cool-headed management of a political campaign full of personal attacks; the daily integrity of Elizabeth Ishii; the hard work and aspirations of Hilary Benson Gangnes; Bernice Littman's willingness to go to the mat for other women lawyers; the nononsense diligence of Past President Rosemary McShane; the unwavering commitment to civil rights of Past President Susan Ichinose; the boundless energy of Coralie Matayoshi; the pathbreaking of Past Presidents Rai Saint Chu and Carol Mon Lee; Judge Marie Milks' investment in Hawaii's girls; the organizational efforts of U.H. women law students Devon Ishii and Emi Morita. The Hawaii women lawyers (and their personal traits) who inspire me could fill a book.

Let's celebrate all who walk beside us for a time. The job of being a lawyer would be more difficult without them.

--Melissa T. Pavlicek

more pictures from HWL's Birthday Party



Left: (left to rt.) Dir. Joanne Grimes; New VP/Pres.-Elect April Wilson-South; Dir. Yvonne Lau; Dir. Lane Hornfeck; Charla Murakami.



Right: (left to rt.) Dir. Michele Loudermilk and Dir. Joy Miyasaki

HWL Advocates Funding for Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment

Federal funds have recently become available to match state funds for breast and cervical cancer treatment for eligible patients. HWL supports the State Department of Human Services' plans to implement the state program. In addition, HWL is advocating with the help of the Women's Coalition, a bill that would include women in the state program who were not otherwise eligible to receive treatment.

Previously, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Act, which led to the creation of screening programs in all 50 States, did not provide federal funds for treatment, only diagnostics. In 1997, Hawaii established its pilot program for the Hawaii Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (HBCCCP), under this Act.

Approximately two thousand women have been screened through the HBCCCP, since its inception. Thirty four (34) breast cancers have been diagnosed through HBCCCP with a rate of cancer detection of 1.1%, as compared with the rate of all other programs combined nationally of .8%. Every year, the number of women screened increases. Native Hawaiian women have a higher rate of developing breast cancer than the national average.

Historically, in Hawai'i, the five-year survival rate has been best for Japanese women (90%), followed by Caucasian women (86%), and lowest for Filipino (81%) and Hawaiian women (78%). This discrepancy is partially explained by later stage at diagnosis in Filipino and Hawaiian women, but may also reflect access to health care and tolerance of treatment. There are also significant ethnic differences regarding mammography, with 73% of Caucasian women and only 49% of Filipino women reporting a mammogram between 1994-1996.

In addition to the State matching contribution of funds needed to implement treatment, there must be legislation that would appropriate additional funds, in excess of the State matching contribution, to provide treatment for the non-Medicaid eligible HBCCCP women who are diagnosed (the "gap group"). The "gap group" of women includes those with insurance that will not pay for their treatment (the "underinsured") and some immigrants who were also screened through HBCCCP, and those that are uninsured.

HWL's efforts are being coordinated by Cathy Morris, who helped HWL, and other organizations, establish the Hawai'i Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Coalition. The Coalition was created solely to effect the passage of State legislation to address these important funding issues. The Coalition consists of Hawai'i Women Lawyers, the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer; the American Cancer Society; and the Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncologists. The HBCTC is also working in collaboration with the National Breast Cancer Coalition, State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Dept. of Human Services Med/QUEST Division, Na Loio and the Women's Coalition of Hawai'i.

Women's History Month: Calendar of Events

March 3:

"Diversity and Disability: Reflections on Women, Culture and Sexuality" symposium; Day 1 at UH-Manoa Campus Center Ballroom, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register by mail, contact Valerie Shearer at 956-2673 or Martha Guinan at 956-9810. To register online, www.cds.hawaii.edu.

March 4:

"Diversity and Disability: Reflections on Women, Culture and Sexuality" symposium; Day 2 at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., in conjunction with the 17th Annual Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities.

March 4:

"Dance Me To My Song." In Honolulu, 9 a.m. at Waikiki Theatre; contact, Martha Guinan, 956-9810 or guinan@hawaii.edu. Open to the public; ticket donation, \$5.

March 7:

"Dance Me To My Song." In Hilo, 5 p.m., Palace Theatre. For Information in Hilo, contact Trina Nahm-Mijo at 808/974-7551, or email: nahmmijo@hawaii.edu or Sherry Winkelman at Palace Theatre, p. 934-7010.

March 14-31:

Art of Women: "Celebrating the Challenges and Successes Hawaii's Women and Girl Artists with Disabilities." Another history month event, the aim of the exhibit is to raise the level of recognition and respect for the diversity of artwork created by Hawaii's women and girl artists with disabilities. Organizers seek work in all media from girls and women artists with disabilities for a show at Honolulu Hale during March 2001 Women's History month. Application deadline is February 10, 2001. For more information about the exhibit and the reception, contact Sally Bartholomew at 395-3317 or email Lori Sakaguchi at lsakaguchi@hanahaouli.org.

March 14:

"Art of Women" Exhibit Opening reception: " 6 -8 p.m. The public is invited to meet the artists and view their work. The artwork encompassing all creative disciplines and featuring women and girl artists whose work is first-rate by any standard. The exhibit runs March 14-31 at the Honolulu Hale, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on King Street. The event is supported by the Honolulu County Committees on the Status of Women and People with Disabilities, ARC, the Contemporary Art Museum and the University of Hawaii.

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Hawai'i Women Lawyers

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Write to us at: P.O. Box 2072; Honolulu, Hawaii
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Good News:

Hawai'i women have above average proportions of female elected representatives, ranking 21st out of 50 states overall for political participation.

Bad News:

Hawai'i women's voting and voter registration rates rank quite low, at 50th and 49th in the nation.

Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research report on the Status of Women in Hawai'i, 2000.