

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

March 2002

You can also find us at: <http://www.hsba.org/sections/HWL/hwl.html>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Celebration of Women's History Month: Lunch with Rep. Patsy Mink

WHEN: Wednesday March 27th
Noon to 1:00pm

WHERE: Carlsmith Ball Conference Room,
1001 Bishop St., Pacific Tower, 22nd Floor

WHO: Congresswoman Patsy Mink

WHY: Come hear Congresswoman Mink, one of six women chosen by the National Women's History Project, as this year's National Women's History Project Honoree, speak about her 36 year career as a lawyer and as a politician, the changes she's seen, and the history she has made.

COST: \$15.00, includes lunch. RSVP to Erin Uyeda at eu@miyasaki.com or call her at 521-3255, and send a \$15 check payable to Hawaii Women Lawyers to her by 3/22, at Pacific Tower, Suite 1030, 1001 Bishop St., Hon. 96813.



Please join us for a Pau Hana Happy Hour (no-host) on Friday, March 15, 2002, 5:30 p.m., at Che Pasta at Bishop Square (1001 Bishop Street). Come and meet other HWL members. We hope to see you there!

In Celebration of Women's History Month

By Julia Morgan

It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. . . but it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary.

Patsy Mink, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 8, 1973 as quoted in CALLED FROM WITHIN: EARLY WOMEN LAWYERS IN HAWAII.

The quote above is much more than the pretty words of a well-educated woman. They are, in fact, the apt description of how Representative Patsy Mink has lived her life: always looking forward and always willing to stand alone when necessary. Hawaii Women Lawyers is honored to have Representative Patsy Mink speak on Wednesday, March 27, 2002 from 12:00 - 1:00 in celebration of Women's History Month.

Representative Mink's life has been filled with firsts. She was the first girl to run for student body president in her junior year of high school in Maui. She was the first Asian-American woman to practice law in Hawaii. In 1965, Patsy Mink was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first woman of color and the

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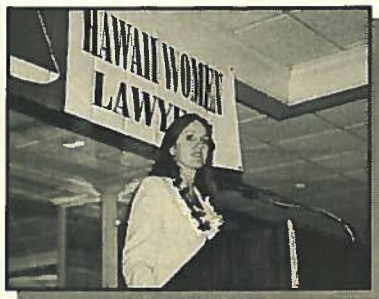
HWL Balancing Work and Family Luncheon 2002

Hawaii Women Lawyers, along with assistance from the Student Bar Association, will be sponsoring the second annual Balancing Work and Family Luncheon at the William S. Richardson School of Law on March 14, 2002. This event began last year when several students expressed an interest in talking with local attorneys about how to have a fulfilling family life while still maintaining a successful career in law.

Last year's event was extremely successful, with approximately 15 attorneys and at least 50 students in attendance. On their evaluations, many students indicated they appreciated the approachability and candor of the participating attorneys. Attorney evaluations also indicated that they enjoyed the discussion with the students.

This year we are hoping to have an equally successful luncheon. Thanks to our member participation, I'm positive it will be a valuable experience for both the students and participating attorneys.

President's Message:



**HWL President:
April Wilson-South**

Hawai'i Women Lawyers has been very busy in the last two months.

HWL's Annual Award Reception was a wonderful night of storytelling and sharing. In addition to each of the award recipients being honored, we were honored by their presence and by each of their unique and fascinating stories.

Hawai'i Woman Lawyer of the Year, Brigadier General Coral Wong Pietsch, shared an insightful story about watching a flock of birds flying through the sky and noting how the first bird in the formation always worked the hardest, easing the way for the birds that followed by path-making and breaking the opposing force of the wind. As the first woman general in the 226-year history of the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and the first Asian American woman to hold the rank of Brigadier General in the Army, General Pietsch's career path has been groundbreaking and she has necessarily made the way easier for the women lawyers who will follow in her path.

HWL President's Award recipient, Patricia McManaman, shared with us the important work that she does as the Chief Executive Officer for Na Loio – Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center. She accepted the award on behalf of Na Loio and asked that we work with her to ease the burdens of those most vulnerable in our society: Women and children who are immigrants in the United States. Under Pat's leadership, Na Loio has provided legal services to battered immigrant women and children, and as a result, hundreds of battered women and abused, neglected or abandoned immigrant children have secured permanent legal resident status in the United States.

HWL Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Beatrice Kanahale Dawson, shared her life passion in working for the rights of Native Hawaiians and, in particular, seeking Hawaiian sovereignty. Though Ms. Dawson did not attend law school until she was 49, she has already had a distinguished legal career. She is the CEO and General Counsel for Dawson Group, Inc., an environmental, construction and information technology corporation, and among her many notable achievements, Ms. Dawson served as attorney for *Na Pua a Ke Ali'i*, a group of students, parents and alumni, who criticized the management of Kamehameha Schools. Ms. Dawson is an outspoken community advocate and though we know she has much more that she will do as an attorney and community activist, we were so proud to have her as the recipient of the HWL lifetime achievement award.



(Left to Right): Awardees: Judge Frances Q.F. Wong, Patricia McManaman, Brigadier General Coral Wong Pietsch, Annelle Amaral, Beadie Kanahale Dawson, Allicyn Hikida Tasaka

Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, who shared humorous and insightful information about the award recipients, **Allicyn Hikida Tasaka** and **Annelle Amaral**, made the presentations of the **HWL Community Service Awards**. It was a joy to hear three strong and powerful women share stories about their experiences as advocates for women, and it was interesting to learn of the similarities in their lives and the paths that led each of them

President's Message . . .

(Continued from page 2)

into leadership. Together, Allicyn Hikida Tasaka and Annelie Amaral, for the last several years had jointly served as co-chairs of the Hawai'i Women's Coalition, an organization that provides a framework for a diverse coalition of public interest organizations (including HWL), government, labor, educational, and other community activists to jointly work together on an annual legislative package and other political activities focusing on legal changes that will improve the status and enhance the lives of women in Hawai'i.

HWL's first recipient of the **Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award**, **Judge Frances Q.F. Wong** is so very humble about her achievements. Judge Wong is universally admired for the role model and the leadership that she has provided since becoming a judge. She is currently assigned as the Senior Judge of the Family Court (a position she previously held from 1992 to 1994), and until recently, she presided over the Oahu Drug Court as well as felony criminal motions.

In addition to the annual award reception, HWL has recently made the unprecedented decision to endorse candidates for judicial office and the retention of particular judges up for renewal. In the past month HWL has sent in letters of recommendation supporting the retention of Judge Gail C. Nakatani, Judge Karen N. Blondin, Judge Corinne K.A. Watanabe, Judge Frances Q.F. Wong, and a letter supporting the selection of HWL Director Hillary Benson Gagnes for one of the three open District Court positions.



(Left to Right) HWL Board Members: Yvonne Lau, Anne Lopez, Vice President Joy Miyasaki, Secretary Lane Hornfeck, Joanne Grimes, Emi Morita, and President April Wilson-South

Photo courtesy of MidWeek



*Keynote Speaker, Marilyn Moniz
Kahooahanohano and her daughter*

HWL has also been very active in the legislature this session. Two bills that have been of particular interest to HWL are H.B. 2123/S.B. No. 2438 Relating To Hawaii Victims' Economic Security And Safety Act, and H.B. 2123/S.B. 2464 Relating To Domestic Violence. These two bills seek to provide protections to victims of domestic abuse preventing the violence from resulting in the victim's loss of employment or housing. We have also been very active in testifying on issues of reproductive choice and in monitoring a flurry of bills in the legislature designed to limit women's right to choose.

Among the other recent activities of HWL are member participation in the AIDS WALK, and HWL planning for participation in the mother's day basket project that was begun last year. HWL members put these baskets together; they contain cosmetics and

bath products, and are given to women who are residing in domestic violence shelters on mother's day.

Despite all of the work we have done, there is so much more to do. HWL always seeks member participation – whether it is through work on a committee or participation in a particular task or event. If you haven't yet become active in HWL, there is no better time. If you used to be active, but haven't been lately, please join us in our work again. Would you like to join us? You can contact any HWL board member at their e-mail address (on the last page of the newsletter). Tell us what you would like to do; we'll find a place for you.

—April

In Celebration of Women's History Month...

(Continued from page 1)

first woman of Asian descent to serve in the U.S. Congress. She was the first to introduce the Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act and authored the Women's Educational Equity Act. In the early 1970's, she played a key role in the enactment of Title IX of the Higher Education Act Amendments, which prohibited gender discrimination by federally funded institutions and has become a touchstone for gender equality in education and sports.

In 2002, Congresswoman Mink joins five other women as The National Women's History Project Honorees for 2002. The other Honorees include:

Alice Coachman: Ms. Coachman was the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field, after breaking the Olympic high jump record at the London Olympics in 1948.

Dorothy Height: Ms. Height worked as President of the National Council of Negro Women for over 40 years, acting as a leader in the struggle for equality and human rights for all people.

Dolores Huerta: Ms. Huerta worked with Cesar Chavez and co-founded and led the United Farm Workers Union, helping to create better working conditions for migrant farm workers.

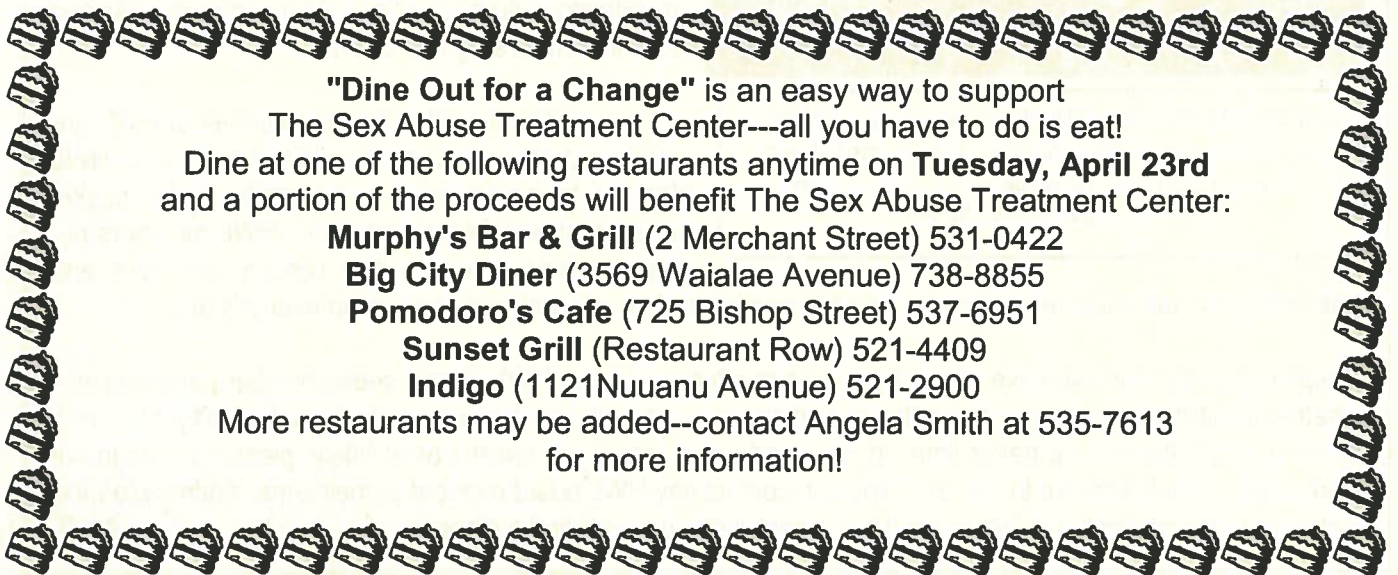
Gerda Lerner: Ms. Lerner is a pioneer in defining the scope and importance of the field of women's history. In 1981, Ms. Lerner was the first woman in fifty years to be elected president of the Organization of American Historians.

Mary Louise Defender Wilson: Ms. Wilson works to keep alive the spirit of the Dakotah/Hidatsa people through storytelling and serves as a vital and necessary cultural bridge to the 21st Century.

All these women were chosen based on the contributions they have made to creating the American Spirit and for their achievements, which "have paved the way for a larger sense of possibility in the America of the 21st Century." Women's National History Month - 2002 Theme.

Women's National History Month is a project of the National Women's History Project (NWHF). Founded in 1980, the NWHF is the only clearinghouse for information and training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, parents, and anyone wanting to expand their understanding of women contributions to U. S. history. The goal of the NWHF is to make history accurate by recognizing and celebrating women's contributions and achievements.

Please join other members of the Hawaii Women Lawyers on March 27, 2002 at 12:00 pm to hear Representative Mink speak about her career as lawyer and politician and her role in shaping history.



"Dine Out for a Change" is an easy way to support
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center---all you have to do is eat!
Dine at one of the following restaurants anytime on **Tuesday, April 23rd**
and a portion of the proceeds will benefit The Sex Abuse Treatment Center:

- Murphy's Bar & Grill** (2 Merchant Street) 531-0422
- Big City Diner** (3569 Waiialae Avenue) 738-8855
- Pomodoro's Cafe** (725 Bishop Street) 537-6951
- Sunset Grill** (Restaurant Row) 521-4409
- Indigo** (1121 Nuuanu Avenue) 521-2900

More restaurants may be added--contact Angela Smith at 535-7613
for more information!

HWL's 2nd Annual Mother's Day Gift Drive



Hawaii Women Lawyers is proud to sponsor its second annual Mother's Day Gift Drive. Last year, through your generous donations of cosmetics and toiletries, together we were able to ensure that every child in a domestic violence shelter had a gift to give his or her mother on Mother's Day. We hope this year to expand our efforts to include children in homeless shelters.

Again, we are asking you to open your hearts as well as your makeup drawers and bathroom cabinets, and donate any unused toiletries and cosmetic items that can be included in a gift basket. You don't need to buy anything to participate. Perhaps you have unused soaps, shampoos, conditioners, or bath gels that you picked up at a hotel. Maybe you were given samples of perfume or mascara by a cosmetic manufacturer, or you may have a new bottle of body lotion that was just not the right scent. All of these can be incorporated into a beautiful gift basket.

To arrange for pick up of your donations, please contact Elizabeth Kent at 586-4999. If others in your company or organization would be willing to donate, it would be much appreciated if one person could coordinate the collections for your entire company or organization. We would appreciate receiving any donations by March 15, 2002.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Kent at 586-4999 or Stacey Djou at 521-9203, and mahalo for your generosity!

**HELP
WANTED**

We need help! Many of HWL's committees are in need of your assistance. If you would like to help and get active in your organization, please contact April Wilson-South at 586-8636 or e-mail her at april@hicrc.org.

If you would like to submit articles or announcements of interest to HWL Members, please do so by e-mailing HWL Newsletter Editor, Yvonne Lau at ylau@hawaii.rr.com. You may also send her your articles and announcements in Word or Wordperfect format. Newsletters are usually published ten times a year during the first week of the month. Contact Yvonne by e-mail or call her at 586-8690 for more information.



Hawai'i Women Lawyers

HWL Newsletter is published ten times a year.

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Hawaii Women Lawyers is a non-profit organization of men and women, founded in 1976, committed to: Improving the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influencing the future of the legal profession, and enhancing the status of women and promoting equal opportunities for all people.

HWL annually elects members to serve on its 15-member board of directors. Members volunteer to serve on committees such as the Legislative, Newsletter, Programs, Projects, Publicity, Judicial Equity and Membership committees. HWL is supported by the dues paid by its members and grant funding from the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and other organizations.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers efforts to assist the Hawaii Food Bank in its time of crisis were a great success. **We donated over 400 pounds of food and approximately \$350.** With every dollar donated, food can be distributed to up to 20 people. Thank you to everyone who donated and assisted in the pick-up and delivery of canned goods. The food drive was a response to the overwhelming need of the Food Bank. The events of September 11th stretched their resources as more individuals and families were in need of assistance.

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