

Upcoming Events

HWLF's 25th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

Hawaii's Dream Girls

When: Saturday, October 13, 2007

Where: Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort
and Spa, Tapa Ballroom

Time: 5:00 p.m.

This year's theme, "Hawaii Dream Girls," celebrates this history-making year for women in politics by featuring three of Hawaii's outstanding female leaders, Hawaii's very own *Dream Girls* -- Governor Linda Lingle, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono and Senate President Colleen Hanabusa -- in an original rollicking Motown production.

Join the glitz and glamour by dressing as your favorite Supreme or Temptation and come prepared to sway your hips, snap your fingers and dance the night away to that sweet yet soulful Motown sound!

Job Opportunity

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing is looking for an experienced attorney for its Kailua-Kona office. The ideal candidate will have a background in real estate and litigation, be focused and ambitious, and be willing to work hard and smart for significant professional and monetary success. For more information, please email Shelby Floyd, Esq. at sfloyd@ahfi.com.

Hawaii Girls Court Brownbag

On July 13, 2007, Hawaii Women Lawyers held a brown bag lunch entitled "Hawaii Girls Court: Surfing the Tsunami" at Carlsmith Ball. Family Court Judge Karen Radius, who along with dedicated probation officers and other staff founded Girls Court, was the featured speaker. Twelve members of the local legal community attended to learn more about this novel program which now serves as a national model for other jurisdictions.

Judge Radius explained that when she was a Legal Aid attorney in the 1970's, few girls were arrested. Over the years, she noticed striking and alarming trends: (1) that the percentage of girls being arrested was dramatically rising with girls now constituting about 41% of juvenile arrests on Oahu (1600 girls are referred to Family Court each year); (2) that the rate of recidivism for girls was higher than boys; and (3) that the same girls who were being arrested were showing up on other calendars of Family Court, especially on the TRO calendar, as victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Judge Radius believed that there had to be a better way to help these young teens than to simply put them through the regular criminal justice system which was set up for boys and which didn't address other pressing needs and issues such as broken families, low self-esteem, teen pregnancy, and victimization by others, including family members or boyfriends. Most of the girls had been repeatedly referred to Family Court for status offenses such as Runaway, Beyond Control, Truancy, and/or misdemeanor criminal offenses.

The Girls Court program includes several different aspects. First, the girls attend court sessions every 5 weeks. While they are meeting together, their parents or guardians are required to attend adult sessions. Part of the Court time includes "Circle Group" during which the girls in therapeutic group sessions discuss various issues, share experiences, bond, and gradually rebuild self-esteem and consider better options for themselves. During many other sessions each month, the girls engage in community service projects and also participate in activities such as scrap booking. Although initially court staffers were skeptical that the girls would like activities such as arts and crafts they found that the girls loved them. Most of these young women have missed "girly" and innocent aspects of childhood. The girls also participated in surfing lessons in conjunction with the Surfrider Foundation. They have also gone to Kahoolawe where they met with a Hawaiian elder and planted trees, pondering that rebirth is possible, whether for a devastated island or themselves. As one young woman told Judge Radius, "Girls Court gave me permission to be good." Since the program started 3 years ago, many girls have turned their lives around. Some are attending college; others are remaining successfully employed. A few have returned to mentor other groups, not wanting their connection to the program to end.

This was a compelling hour and HWL appreciates the passion and commitment that Judge Radius and the Girls Court staff have dedicated to this program.

President's Column

By: Lauren R. Sharkey



Summer brings many changes: summer breaks, new schools and schedules, and the changing of the officers on the HWL Board.

My first ever President's Column had me wrought with anxious questions: what can I say to all these wonderful women (and a handful of men) members, what inspirational thoughts do I have to offer, and so on. (If you are expecting something life-changing here, you should just go ahead and stop reading now.) As I contemplated these questions and after coming up empty, my thoughts focused upon more simple thoughts like what HWL is to me and how it has helped in my life.

I would like to say that I joined the Board seven years ago because of some altruistic need to do something worthwhile, but actually it was because I was asked by Melissa Pavlicek when the Board needed a treasurer (having a CPA background was my hook). Over the years, I have made great friends, been inspired by other HWL members who have done so much to further women's causes leading me to do more for others, and developed strong bonds with other women lawyers who have always made me feel that my opinion counted.

My life is ever challenged by juggling two rambunctious boys, a husband, a busy workload and participation in HWL and its sister organization Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. While family and firm life are fulfilling, there is something about this organization which fills a void that the others do not. I am constantly encouraged and enlightened by other HWL members which encourages me to continue to do more for the organization.

Whether it be networking, public service, or learning about different issues that impact all of us, HWL is a fit for each and every one of us. I invite you to participate in as many activities as you can and to make suggestions where you see a need that has not been met. Feel free to email me at lsharkey@caselombardi.com anytime to discuss HWL and what it can do for you.

The bonds that we develop together, as women and as lawyers, will last a lifetime and will hopefully bring you as much joy as it has me.



Congratulations to our very own board member **RUTH K. OH** on being named in the Honolulu Magazine's Best Lawyers in Hawaii for immigration law.

Honoring the Vision and Life of Patsy Mink

By: Constance H. Lau



The late Patsy Takemoto Mink was a woman far ahead of her time both in what she accomplished in her own personal life and in her vision and championing of women's rights long before it became acceptable and popular.

Today, 35 years after the historic passage of Title IX legislation, women in Hawaii and throughout this nation enjoy an unprecedented level of gender equity and opportunity in sports and education. Congresswoman Mink's instrumental role in the enactment of Title IX was recognized by Congress when it renamed the 1972 landmark legislation, the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.

In her own life, she was a trailblazer who challenged limitations placed on her because she was a minority and a woman. When 12 medical schools denied her application because she was a woman, she went to law school. But even as a lawyer, she faced prejudice that regarded her gender as a liability. She responded to that kind of ignorance with an equal amount of tenacity and grace.

She became the first Japanese-American woman admitted to the Hawaii bar. She was the first Asian-American woman elected to the State Legislature, and she was the first woman of color to get elected to a national office in 1964 when she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

She became an unwavering voice for the disenfranchised, the poor and the forgotten. She believed that educational access and equity was a precondition to social justice. For many, it was her championing of equality for women that has become her legacy. She believed women, given the opportunity, could help transform the nation.

As a result of her unflinching leadership, Title IX was passed 35 years ago. And, from Title IX's enactment in 1972 until her death in 2002, Congresswoman Mink worked tirelessly to defend it against efforts to dilute and weaken it. One result of 35 years of Title IX enforcement across all levels of education is that the number of girls participating in high school athletics has increased by 904 percent. The number of women participating in college athletics has jumped by 456 percent. In 1972, before Title IX, female athletes received only about \$100,000 in college scholarships nationwide. Today, they are awarded more than \$617 million in scholarships.

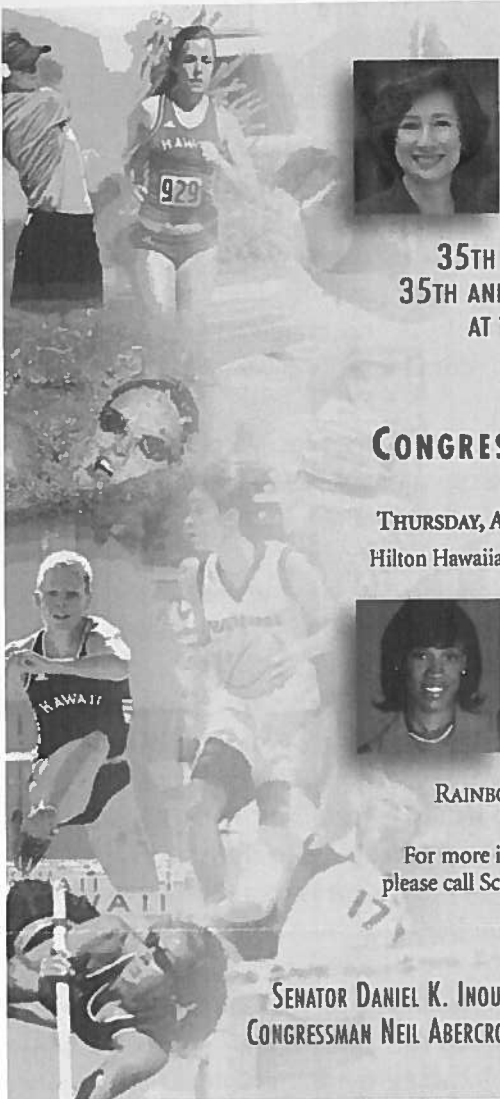
But Title IX is about more than sports and is an issue that transcended the athletic arena. Title IX opened the doors of law schools and medical schools to women, enabled women to acquire nontraditional job skills, and pledged that all learning environments would empower women to fulfill their potential.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the passage of Title IX. Not coincidentally, it also marks the 35th anniversary of the University of Hawaii's own women's athletic program—a program that has produced a national sports title—by UH Wahine volleyball teams.

In this anniversary year, University of Hawaii, in partnership with American Savings Bank and Hawaiian Electric Industries, is pleased to honor Patsy Mink and celebrate its women's athletics program. A commemorative dinner will be held on August 30 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to celebrate and honor the occasion. The commemorative dinner is intended to raise funds for UH Women's Athletics and to establish a Patsy T. Mink scholarship endowment at the University of Hawaii.

Hawaii has been blessed with a long history of strong, insightful and caring women, who have assumed leadership roles in government, business, labor, academia, the professions and the community. Today, Hawaii is being led by Governor Linda Lingle, State Senate President Colleen Hanabusa, and U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, who follows in Patsy's footsteps, serving in the U.S. Congress. They are joined by countless other women leaders in all sectors of our island society.

But Congresswoman Mink's legacy reaches beyond sports and beyond women. Title IX opened the doors of access to all. Her principle was that everyone, regardless of gender or ethnicity, should have equal opportunity – something we should all uphold.



CONSTANCE H. LAU

Chairman, President & CEO American Savings Bank and
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invites you to celebrate the

**35TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX AND
35TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

honoring the late

CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY T. MINK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007 • 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa, Coral Ballroom



Keynote will be delivered by
JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE
Three-Time Olympic Gold Medalist

Proceeds will benefit

RAINBOW WAHINE ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

For more information on sponsorship opportunities or table purchases,
please call Scott Shaub (808) 441-9701, or e-mail sshaub@mcneilwilson.com

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Save the Date

**Governor Linda Lingle's Fourth Annual International Women's
Leadership Conference**

Tuesday, September 25, 2007 * Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

Join Governor Linda Lingle and 11 world renowned women leaders in the
fields of business, finance, healthcare, science, technology and law

For more information, visit
www.hawaii.gov

"Inspiring Today, For Tomorrow"

HWL Annual Membership Meeting and Installation of Officers and Directors



HWL's annual membership meeting and installation of officers and directors was held on June 26, 2007 at Case Lombardi and Pettit. More than twenty members attended the meeting and welcomed the new officers and directors for 2007-2008.



There was lots of friendship and fun!!!



Chop Suey Generis



Congratulations to HWL Board Member, **Natalie Younoszai**, on the birth of her son, Dylan Clyde Younoszai. Dylan was born on June 19, 2007, at 9:10 p.m., weighing 8 lbs, 1 oz! He is a healthy baby.

HWL is always trying to find ways to better serve its members. If you hear of a job opening, either legal or non-legal, on a full or part-time basis, please let us know. We would be happy to publish the information in our monthly newsletter or send an email on the topic. For newsletter submissions, contact Shellie Park-Hoapili at shellie@ahfi.com.

**HWL Officers and Board of Directors
2007-2008**

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