



Aloha HWL Members,



I hope that you are staying healthy and doing well. Although we have not been able to hold many of our usual in-person events this past year, the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers continues to be committed to advancing the mission of HWL.

In this newsletter, you will find information regarding:

- Legislative Outreach Updates
- Past Events: Matching donation drive and HWL student representative panels
- Upcoming Events: Series with ThinkTech featuring our 2020 Annual Awards honorees, and a save the date for HWL's Annual Awards Reception for 2021

We truly appreciate your membership and we encourage your active participation and feedback as members.

Thank you,
Michi Momose
HWL President

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2020 AWARDS HONOREES

As you know, the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 annual awards reception in light of the pandemic. However, we remain dedicated to recognizing our awardees and continuing our mission to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession. To that end, we have partnered with Thinktech Hawaii to highlight our 2020 honorees through a virtual “talk-story discussion” with each honoree and other women. The program will be part of Thinktech Hawaii’s Life in the Law series. Each 30-minute segment will be available to be viewed on Thinktech Hawaii’s website.

- **Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** – Tracey Wiltgen – Distinguished Service Award honoree, Tricia Nakamatsu, and Cecelia Chang
<https://thinktechhawaii.com/hwls-2020-distinguished-service-award-life-in-the-law/>
- **Monday, May 3, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** – Judge Barbara Richardson (ret.) – Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, Michi Momose, and Pōhai Nu’uhiwa Campbell
<https://thinktechhawaii.com/hwls-2020-lifetime-achievement-award-life-in-the-law/>
- **Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** – Judge Alexa Fujise (ret.) – Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award honoree and Nicole Altman (additional guest to be confirmed)
- **Monday, June 14, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** – Rachael Wong – President’s Award honoree and Kimi Ide Foster (additional guest to be confirmed)
- **Monday, June 28, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.** – Laura Thielen – Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award honoree and Mihoko Ito (additional guest to be confirmed)

2021 ANNUAL AWARDS

Although our Annual Awards reception would typically be held in the spring, we have tentatively scheduled this year’s reception for the evening of **Thursday, September 16, 2021**, at the YWCA’s Fuller Hall on Oahu. Additional information regarding purchasing tickets/tables will be provided a few weeks in advance of the event. We will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates regarding any changes in scheduling.

We will be sending out a special announcement about our 2021 Annual Awards honorees in the coming weeks. Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to submit their nominations. The Board carefully considered each nomination and encourages nominations to be re-submitted for future years given the many highly-qualified nominations we received.

Recent Events

Hawaii Foodbank and Aloha Harvest Donation Drive

In lieu of our usual After-Holidays Goodies Drive, we encouraged our members to make monetary donations during the holiday season to the [Hawaii Foodbank](#) or to [Aloha Harvest](#), with a “matching” donation drive. The drive involved HWL matching members’ monetary donations made between December 28, 2020 and January 15, 2021, up to a total combined maximum of \$1000 (up to \$500 for Hawaii Foodbank, and up to \$500 for Aloha Harvest). In March, we announced that between our members and their friends and family, HWL was able to facilitate donations to Aloha Harvest and the Hawaii Foodbank in the amount of about **\$3,500** – and that’s not including our **\$1,000** match! Thank you again for your generosity during what is a very difficult time for many in our community who are faced with food insecurity.



Women's History Panels hosted by HWL Student Representatives

FINDING YOUR VOICE
AS A FEMALE ATTORNEY

JOIN
HAWAII Women LAWYERS
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
for a panel discussion on how to find your voice and be heard in the work place.
PANELISTS INCLUDE:



Deidre Marie-Iha
Goodsill Anderson

Lisa Swartzfager
Cades Shutte

Claire Wong Black
Dentons

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

March 10
12-1 PM

In March, in honor of Women's History Month, HWL's student representatives organized two remote panels for students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. The first panel, ***Finding Your Voice As a Female Attorney***, featured panelists **Deidre Marie-Iha** (Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel), **Lisa Swartzfager** (Cades Schutte), and **Claire Wong Black** (Dentons), who are attorneys in private practice. The discussion, moderated by HWL student representative Hannah Caddle, focused on tips and advice about finding your voice and being heard in the workplace.

LEADING WOMEN

Hawaii needs more women in leadership roles!
Join us for a special panel discussion webinar on how women can become more active in leadership in Hawaii. We will talk with women leaders from the Judiciary, Legislature, Private Practice, and Commissions.

MARCH 24, 2021 | NOON HST

Panelists:
Senator Roz Baker
Kristin Holland, Partner Denton's Honolulu
The Honorable Kristine Yoo

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

HAWAII Women LAWYERS
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES



The second panel, ***Leading Women***, featured panelists **State Senator Roz Baker**, **Kristin Holland** (Dentons), and the **Honorable Kristine Yoo-Nakamatsu**, District Family Court Judge. The goal of the discussion, also moderated by Hannah Caddle, was to talk about how women can become more active in leadership in Hawaii in diverse areas, including the judiciary, legislature, private practice, and state commissions/boards. The HWL student representatives received great feedback from both panels. Thank you to all of the panelists for participating and taking the time to speak with the law students!

Legislative Outreach Update



The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all. As part of this mission, Hawaii Women Lawyers monitors legislation at the State level that may impact the lives of women and families, and provides testimony relating to such legislation. For the 2021 legislative session, Hawaii Women Lawyers has or will be submitting testimony in support of the following bills:

HB 576 / SB 624 - Relating to Health Care. Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses to perform medication or aspiration abortions. **This bill was signed into law by Governor Ige on April 12, 2021.**

HB 1096 / SB 618 - Relating to Parentage. Requires the department of health to convene a task force to recommend amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes to update existing parentage laws that reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights.

SB 193 / HB 1077 - Relating to Equitable Gender Representation On Corporate Boards. Requires publicly held domestic corporations to have a gender-diverse board of directors and establishes reporting requirements for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and penalties.

SB 827 / HB 564 - Relating to Breast Cancer Screening. Increases the categories of women required to be covered for mammogram screenings, requires the existing health insurance mandate for coverage of low-dose mammography to include digital mammography and breast tomosynthesis. Requires health care providers to be reimbursed at rates accurately reflecting the resource costs specific to each service, including any increased resource cost after January 1, 2021.

GM503. Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts.

SR 8 - Relating to Convening Task Force to Address Implementation of Hawaii's State Law Corollary to Title IX to Strengthen Hawaii's Efforts to End Campus-Based Sexual Violence and Gender Discrimination. Task Force is requested to recommend amendments to Hawaii's state law corollary for the purpose of addressing potential conflicts between Hawaii's law and the federal government's recent changes to the Title IX regulations, while considering the possible impacts of any restoration by the new federal administration of prior Title IX protections, and to recommend a meaningful enforcement framework for Hawaii's state law corollary to Title IX.

HWL also submitted comments regarding **HCR 5 Relating to Establishing a Joint Committee on Judicial Selection**, the purpose of which is to establish a Joint Committee on Judicial Selection and to have the Committee work with the Judicial Selection Commission and the Judiciary to, among other things, “[c]reate greater transparency as to the rules and procedures applicable to the Judicial Selection Commission[.]” Currently, an applicant’s name is publicly released only upon nomination by the Commission for a vacant judicial position. The Resolution states that “Hawaii’s merit-based judicial selection process can only be preserved through public confidence and public confidence requires full disclosure of the process and the need for confidentiality as an inherent part of merit-based judicial selection.” HWL commented that it will be important for the different stakeholders and decision-makers to balance considerations of any need for full disclosure with considerations of the impact that such requirements may have on women applicants for judicial positions, as there may be concerns that publicly releasing information about an applicant may have a disproportionate negative impact on women who are considering applying.