



Newsletter Winter 2020

Aloha and Happy New Year from HWL!



As 2020 came to a close, I hope you were able to take some time to recharge for the new year. I'm proud to reflect on some of the initiatives that HWL has undertaken in the past few months, with the support, participation, and encouragement of our members and our dedicated Board.

In September and October, as we mourned and reflected on the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, HWL engaged in several events to honor Justice Ginsburg's legacy. We invited our members to reflect on her life and shared a compilation of the reflections, which includes statements by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald and Associate Justice Michael Wilson of the Hawaii Supreme Court (the compilation can be viewed [here](#)). We also participated in the "RBG Hawaii Day of Action," a community-led effort of individuals and organizations, which encouraged participation in the "27 Actions" Plan, detailed [here](#) (some of which you can still do) and culminated in an October 24, 2020 event with phone banking organized by Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, and a candlelight vigil at the Hawaii State Capitol. Mihoko Ito, our board member and past president of HWL, participated in a UH law school panel discussion about Justice Ginsburg's impact.

October continued a busy time for HWL, as we concluded our school supplies drive to support the Mālama Honua Public Charter School in procuring much-needed PPE and technology supplies. We also hosted a seminar as part of the HSBA's Annual Bar Convention, moderated by Rita Makana Risser Chai and Amanda Lavis. The interactive seminar addressed issues including gender barriers to advancement in the workplace and gaining a competitive edge through diversity and inclusion. The seminar included presentations by Jessica Morikone and Beth Whitehead, and a panel with Claire Wong Black, Kimi Ide Foster, Madisson Heinze, Rhonda L. Griswold, Danton S. Wong, and Pōhai Nu'uhiwa Campbell. The panelists participated in an engaging and inspiring discussion about empowering women in the workplace and how they have been supported by allies (both men and women) in their careers.

In addition, in light of the ongoing crisis in our community giving rise to greater food insecurity, we announced on December 28 that HWL is hosting a "matching" donation drive for donations made by members to the [Hawaii Foodbank](#) or to [Aloha Harvest](#). Please see below for further details about participating. Thank you to our generous members who have already participated!

Finally, please consider submitting nominations (they can be very brief) for our annual awards by our extended deadline of January 29, 2021, to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our community. More information about the awards is below.

On behalf of the HWL Board, we wish you a safe and happy new year. As always, if you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to reach out at hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com.

Michi Momose
HWL President

Help HWL End Food Insecurity

As we all know, this has been a challenging year for many in our community. Of the various terrible “side-effects” of the pandemic, one of the most visible is the rising threat of food insecurity. According to a recent Civil Beat Article “[COVID-19 Is Changing ‘The Face Of Hunger’ In Hawaii](#)”, Hawaii’s food insecurity rate is projected to increase by about 50% in 2020 because of the effects of COVID-19. This also includes one in three children that are likely to be going to bed hungry. While food insecurity obviously impacts people as a whole, a [USDA national report](#) indicates that women, and especially single women heads of house (i.e., children, but no spouse/partner) is the single demographic most affected by food insecurity.

During this time of year, typically HWL organizes an “After-Holidays Goodies Drive” with Aloha Harvest to collect extra holidays goodies through various law firm collection points for distribution to families and individuals on Oahu. However, considering the increased need in our community, and logistical concerns with collecting donations, the Board decided to do something different this year.

In lieu of the After-Holidays Goodies Drive, *we are encouraging our members to make monetary donations this holiday season to either (or both!) the [Hawaii Foodbank](#) or to [Aloha Harvest](#), to the extent that you have the ability to do so, with a “matching” donation drive. **HWL will match members’ monetary donations that are 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). HWL’s matched donation of up to \$1000 will be based on the total amount donated by our members, regardless of whether members’ donations are made to the Hawaii Foodbank or to Aloha Harvest. HWL’s matched donation will be split evenly between Hawaii Foodbank and Aloha Harvest regardless of whether members donate more to one organization. Neither organization is associated with HWL and neither donation will inure to the benefit of any private shareholders or individuals.*

In order to participate in this drive, please email a copy of your proof of donation by January 20, 2021 (e.g., copy of receipt, confirmation page, etc.) to hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com.

While we recognize there are many deserving organizations undertaking important work, we believe that these donations advance the mission of HWL in promoting the welfare of women in our community in a time of crisis. And although this is a bit unusual for HWL, it is the sentiment of the Board that in an unorthodox year, it is our responsibility to give back in an unorthodox way.



Annual Awards 2021



Each year, Hawaii Women Lawyers is proud to recognize women and men in our community who have made significant contributions that help to advance HWL's mission - improving the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal community, influencing the future of the legal profession, and/or enhancing the status of women and promoting equal opportunities for all people.

Our annual awards dinner is typically held in the spring. Although we are continuing to assess the situation with the pandemic to decide how to celebrate our awardees in 2021, we are determined to continue recognizing the dedicated attorneys, judges, and individuals who have made significant contributions to our community. **Please help us by submitting nominations to the HWL Board.**

The award categories are as follows:

- **Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award:** *Individual attorney having achieved accomplishments of significant merit which advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers.*
- **Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award:** *Sitting judge who has made significant contributions to the bench which advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers.*
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** *Individual in our community who has over her or his lifetime made significant contributions in areas that have advanced the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers.*
- **Distinguished Service Award:** *Individual in our community who has made significant community contributions within the past year to advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers.*

Please email your nominations **by our extended deadline of January 29** to the HWL Board at hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com. Please include a brief description of how the individual has advanced HWL's mission in the award area for which the individual is being nominated.

