



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of HAWAII

FOUNDATION

aclu hawaii news & info



<http://www.acluhawaii.org>

2007 Youth Award Winners Selected

Prestigious prize for local activist youth, award ceremony set for Saturday, 7/7/07



Grand Prize winner, Daniel Coakely

Honolulu, Hawaii – Since 2003, the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii's **Guardians of Liberty & Justice Youth Award** has honored the work of young civil libertarians who have braved adversity to stand up for a constitutional principle. This year's winners have been selected and the awards ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, July 7th, in the chambers of the Hawaii State Supreme Court, with special guest presenter the **Honorable Steven H. Levinson**, Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

and applied constitutionally. **Daniel's activism underscores the importance of better school-level awareness of and cooperation with the uniform waiver policy.**

The second prize of \$500 and a two year ACLU membership goes to **Flora Oh** of Kalani High School, who was the organizing catalyst for a spontaneous demonstration at her school in response to a DOE decision to reassign the school's popular and respected principal. Flora began demonstrating upon hearing the news – without stopping to question if she would get punished or suspended for doing so. Her demonstration was quickly joined by students and even some teachers and staff, and was covered by local media. Flora and her supporters gathered over 500 signatures in hopes of convincing the DOE to change its mind. The ACLU is inspired by Flora's use of peaceful protest and petition to make the students' voices heard.



Second prize winner, Flora Oh

In a time where many students assume they have no constitutionally protected rights at school, Flora used her conscience and her constitutional freedoms to the fullest.

Join us in honoring this year's top civil libertarian youth!

The 2007 Guardians of Liberty & Justice Youth Awards
• 7/7/07, 11:00 to 12:00
• Hawaii State Supreme Court chambers

Seating is very limited, so RSVP early! Call (808)522-5900 or email office@acluhawaii.org by 6/22/07.

<http://www.acluhawaii.org/legislative> 2007 ACLU Legislative Update is now online!

This session, the ACLU of Hawaii's Legislative Committee, with community partners, succeeded in getting groundbreaking civil liberties legislation passed and helped to defeat a number of egregious measures. Read the details online at <http://www.acluhawaii.org/legislative> or contact the office for a printed version. During each legislative session, the ACLU monitors, provides oral and written testimony and lobbies members of the Legislature in support of or in opposition to civil liberties-related legislation. In so doing, the ACLU has become an influential force and active partner in the

lawmaking process. **This session, the ACLU testified over 50 times** on behalf of our members throughout Hawaii on a wide range of civil liberties issues, including:

- "Real ID" (a national identification card)
- voting rights
- criminal justice, due process and law enforcement
- discrimination
- reproductive freedom
- prisoners' rights
- privacy and individual autonomy

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RSVP: Guardians of Liberty & Justice Youth Award Ceremony – 7/7/07!

ACLU Hawaii is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving Hawaii since 1965.
Post Office Box 3410, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801 Phone: 808.522.5900

Your tax-deductible donation underwrites public education & legal program activities.
Please make checks payable to the ACLU of Hawaii Foundation.

___ \$42.00 (\$1 per year ACLU of Hawaii has served in paradise!)
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___ Send me a volunteer application – I'd like to know how I can help.



Most people know that the ACLU legal department takes important constitutional cases – yet many are surprised to learn that most cases are settled with little or no monetary benefit to the ACLU. In fact, *nationwide, only 3% of ACLU operating funds come from legal settlements.* The lion's share comes from donors like you – and we appreciate you!

As you plan your will or estate, include the **ACLU of Hawaii Foundation** to help us fight the legal cases that defend constitutional rights. **Contact Executive Director Vanessa Chong.**

City & County, ACLU Settle Case

Grounds of Honolulu Hale Reaffirmed as Public Property, '07 Legal Intern for Homelessness Issues



Justice Served! L-R: Plaintiff Utu Langi, 2006 legal program intern Marie Tenney, plaintiff Julia Matsui Estrella and ACLU of Hawai'i Legal Director Lois Perrin

HONOLULU, HAWAII – The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i Foundation ("ACLU of Hawai'i") and the City & County of Honolulu ("City") resolved their disputes stemming from the protests by advocates for the homeless at City Hall (Honolulu Hale), which took place from March 27, 2006-April 28, 2006. The settlement reaffirmed the basic principle that public spaces like the grounds of City Hall are open on an equal basis to all who engage in lawful protests regardless of the content of the message or the identity of the messenger.

The settlement was reached in response to two federal lawsuits filed by the ACLU of Hawai'i. The City made a decision to close Ala Moana Beach Park for 6 hours nightly in response to concerns of residents regarding usage of the park.

The resulting displacement of homeless individuals from the park inspired scores of individuals to march to City Hall in protest. The first lawsuit sought damages on behalf of **Utu Langi** and **Julia Matsui Estrella** – advocates for the homeless who were arrested during their peaceful protest at City Hall.

The second lawsuit, filed on behalf of **Reverends Bob Nakata** and **Sam Cox** and the **Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i**, also advocates for the homeless, sought damages and a court order to reaffirm that the grounds of City Hall are open equally to all who are engaged in activities protected by the First Amendment. That lawsuit charged that the City subjected protests by people experiencing homelessness and their advocates to more restrictive conditions than other members of the public, which constitutes unlawful discrimination under the 1st Amendment.

*"...protesting at City Hall is a long-standing & traditional way for the public to express their political views. All peaceful political demonstrators should be treated equally, with dignity and respect."
- ACLU of Hawai'i
Legal Director
Lois Perrin*

In the settlement, the City paid \$65,250. The majority of these funds have been earmarked by the plaintiffs for non-profit organizations, including the homeless outreach groups like the **H-5 Project (Hawai'i Helping the Hungry Have Hope)**.

The ACLU welcomes **Delia L'Heureux** – legal intern for Summer 2007 who will focus on City and State treatment of the homeless.

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The ACLU accepts no government funds & relies on your support! Your gift today to the **ACLU of Hawai'i Foundation** helps us earn 2007-2008 matching funds of up to \$25,000 for educational & legal programs in Hawai'i.

Are you getting multiple copies? Please tell us!
(808)522-5900

Fall Statewide Public Meetings: "Guantánamo & the Law"

The local ACLU will conduct public briefings on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i focusing on the need to restore the rule of law and close the U.S. detention center at Cuba's Guantánamo Bay.

Join the ACLU of Hawai'i and our sponsor, the law firm of Paul Johnson Park & Niles for an evening with Hawai'i attorney Edmund Burke who has represented a detainee held without charges for almost five years.



Find out:

- what life is like for the detainees
- how the Military Commissions Act impacts attorneys' and their clients
- what it's like to be the wartime attorney of a Guantánamo detainee

Dates and locations to be announced. Watch for a special mailer and visit our website, <http://www.acluhawaii.org>.

For information about restoring the rule of law and the Military commissions Act, visit <http://www.findhabeas.org>

Bill of Rights Day is Fri. 12/14/07! Can you help us give away free copies from 11AM to 1PM? Call (808)522-5904



Field Team Report

April

• Board member **Jory Watland** was on a panel discussion about **Death with Dignity**.

• Legal Director **Lois Perrin** spoke with the **Hilo Rotary** and on radio KHBE's **Mel "Mynah Bird" Medeiros** show, thanks to Rotarian **Tim Young**.

• Board member **Esther Solomon** arranged for **Kat Brady** to speak to the Kauai League of Women Voter's on prison reform.

March

• **Carolyn Hadfield** invited ACLU to staff a table at the "Defending Science" Forum at UH Manoa.

• Volunteer **Alena Chesterman** staffed a "Your Right to Protest" info table at the "World Can't Wait" rally.

• ACLU & the **Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i** had an info table on drug policy reform at the White House ONDCP's "Student Drug Testing Summit". Volunteers included board member **Pam Lichty, Dick Miller, Laurie Temple & Jeanne Ohta**.

• Board member **Ibrahim Aoude** hosted ACLU on his live call-in UH-Manoa TV show "Island Connections"

• Board member **Gail Gnazzo** attended a Maui community meeting on the proposed "drug-sniffing dogs" program in public schools.

Buying or selling? Here's a nifty way to give!



Since 2000, real estate agent and dedicated civil libertarian **Paula Myers** has donated a generous portion of her commissions from ACLU referrals to support ACLU of Hawai'i Foundation programs. Myers has been active with the local ACLU since 1985 and is longstanding chair of the Awards Dinner Committee.

Myers factoid: Spent Summer of 1965 doing voter registration for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference campaign in Alabama and South Carolina!

email Paula Myers:
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office: (808)735-4200
cell: (808)284-0287
direct: (808)735-8638

When you hire Paula, just mention the ACLU of Hawai'i!



General Campaign Chair **Rick Fried** was acknowledged for his 17 years of service at a donors' event. His dedication to the cause has resulted in significant gains for ACLU financial support. Fried took the opportunity to introduce general campaign vice-chair **Richard Kowen**. Kowen has been very active with our lawyer's Amicus Club Campaign for several years and continues as co-chair. More to come on these two leaders in the next issue.

National Board; and board members **George Atkins, Barbara Franklin** (Hawai'i Island), **Gail Gnazzo** (Maui), **Sat Freedman, Marianita Lopez, Andrea Low** and **Moana Yost**.

After 13 years with the affiliate, **Mary Donohoe** bid aloha to return to Chicago to take care of family needs. Her indefatigable support & generosity will be missed by many volunteers and staff. Executive Director **Vanessa Chong** called her assistant and office manager "the one who kept me grounded". The Board and volunteer corps dedicated their fall meetings to celebrate Mary's contributions. Fortunately, a dynamic staff continues to work on the ACLU mission each day. They are **Lois Perrin**, legal director; **Laurie Temple**, staff attorney (congrats on passing the bar!); **Tracey Tokuoka**, administrative assistant and office manager; and **Kit Grant**, director of outreach and development. Rounding out the team are expert

independent contractors **Kat Brady** and **Chris Verleye** who, respectively, provided legislative & system administration services.

In fall of 2006 law student **Marie Tenney** externed with the ACLU of Hawai'i legal department. In spring 2007, pre-law student **Keoni Silva** interned with our public education program and worked on "Real ID". **Abigail Holden** externed for the legal department. We're excited to have our newest legal intern, **Delia L'Heureux** for the summer of 2007. She will be doing outreach to communities on issues related to homelessness.

Finally, thanks **Uncle Norman Bode** for the lovely puakenikeni, and **Tim Young** for the "Hilo Roses" (magnolias)

Elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors were **Barbara Ankersmit** (an at-large member), **Ibrahim Aoude, Rick Schneider, Esther Solomon** (Kauai) and **Patrick Taomae**. They join officers (elected for one-year terms) **Sheryl Nicholson**, president; **Jory Watland**, vice-president; **Roger Fonseca**, secretary and affiliate affirmative action officer; **Pat Hammers**, treasurer; **Pam Lichty**, at-large; **Jeff Hong**,