American Civil Liberties Union
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ACLU Hawaiʻi is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving Hawaiʻi since 1965.

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ACLU Hawaiʻi – Since 2003, the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaiʻi’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 Hawaiʻi State Supreme Court, with special guest presenter the Honorable Steven H. Levinson, Associate Justice of the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court.

The grand prize of $1000 and a two year ACLU membership goes to Daniel Coakley of Kapa‘a. While attending Kohala High School Daniel attempted to confront his school’s uniform policy through his teachers, counselors, administrators, student government and finally the Department of Education (DOE). Although a uniform waiver policy existed within the DOE administrative framework, it took 2 years of refusal to wear the uniform and persistent inquiry for Daniel to be told about it. Daniel’s concerns were met by his school not with accommodation and information but with punishment. He was repeatedly given detention, barred from his prom and denied extracurricular activities. As a result of Daniel’s actions, students and teachers at Kohala High are now more aware of the waiver rule. Daniel’s teacher said that his protest “had a huge impact (on the administration)” and caused a “ripple effect” of change. The ACLU believes that when a school chooses to enforce uniforms, it must provide a waiver, with waiver information clearly communicated to students and parents.

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.

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

The 2007 Guardians of Liberty & Justice Youth Awards – 7/7/07, 11:00 to 12:00
Hawaiʻi State Supreme Court chambers
Seating is very limited, so RSVP early! Call (808)522-5900 or email office@acluhawaii.org by 6/22/07.

This session, the ACLU of Hawaiʻi’s Legislative Committee, with community partners, succeeded in getting ground-breaking 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 Hawaiʻi 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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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 26, 2006. The settlement reaffirmed the basic principle that public spaces like the grounds of City Hall are open equally 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 claims filed by the ACLU of Hawai‘i. The ACLU of Hawai‘i, also advocated 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.

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 (Hawaii 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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Field Report Team
April
• Board member Jory Wattand 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 Jeanne Ohta.
• Board member Esther Solomon arranged for Kat Brady to speak to the Kauai League of Women Voters on prisoner 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 Hawaii had an info table on drug policy reform at the White House ONDCP’s “Student Drug Testing Summit.” Volunteers included board member Pam Lighty, Dick Miller, Laurie Temple & Jeanne Ohta.
• Board member Ibrahim Aoude hosted ACLU on his live call-in UH-Manoa TV show “Island Connections”.

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