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\_\_\_ \$43.00 (\$1 per year ACLU of Hawai'i has served in paradise!)  
 \_\_\_ \$115.25 (\$0.25 cents per word in the Bill of Rights)  
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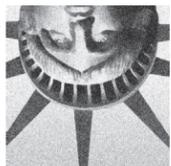
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**Wish List for Obama  
 Inside: Call to Action,**

**Bill of Rights Day is 12/15/08!**  
 Get your free copy by contacting the ACLU, or look for ACLU volunteers from 11:30AM to 1:00PM at these locations:  
 OAHU: Bishop and King St.  
 MAUI: 200 So. High St. (fronting County Building)  
 HAWAII ISLAND: TBA, see www.acluhawaii.org  
 KAUAI: At Coconut Grove Shopping Center

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

American Civil Liberties Union  
 of Hawai'i  
 P.O. Box 3410  
 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
 www.acluhawaii.org



**We're wired for YOU! Please tell us what you think:**

Newsletter delivery:  
 Would you prefer to get your newsletter and ACLU Hawai'i updates via email? We are exploring this option. Please let us know your preferences and thoughts by emailing <newsletter@acluhawaii.org> or calling 808.522.5904 <we will **never** share your email address outside the ACLU>

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**President's Message: A Year-End Call to Action** by A. Joris Watland



Aloha ACLU Friends,

Our country is about to embark on a new course and the ACLU is looking forward to a progressive era for the Constitution. We face enormous challenges. Some corrections can be implemented by executive order

but others will require sustained effort for years in order to restore fundamental rights.

Through the tough times, your local ACLU remains focused & undeterred. And, despite the added economic stress touching everyone, ACLU donors are consistently reaching into their pockets to protect personal freedoms. This generosity and the energy from volunteers statewide provides the quality civil liberties safety net that so many have come to depend on.

Since the ACLU of Hawai'i founding in 1965, it has taken many hands to build a strong Bill of Rights presence. Today, nearly 100 volunteers statewide & over 2000 donors regularly donate their time, talents and dollars to the local ACLU. Your dedication supports a Board of Directors and staff that tirelessly work to deliver legal, legislative and public education programs daily across the islands.

Now, more than ever, the community depends on the ACLU to be a persistent, independent watchdog against government abuse – and we are ready to do what it takes for as long as it takes.

If you've already made your annual donation to the ACLU, we deeply thank you. If you have not, we humbly ask for your support again and to consider one of the following ways to contribute:

• **Every Dollar Counts.** If you don't need the tax-deduction, give to the **ACLU of Hawai'i**. Your donation here will advance our advocacy before the legislature, city/county councils and Board of Education. For those who prefer a tax-deduction, give to **ACLU of Hawai'i Foundation** and support our legal and public education programs. A special donor is matching – dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000 – any increased giving by December 31. We have about \$9,000 left on the match (use the response card on page 4).

• **Legacy Giving.** Without writing a check, you can raise up to \$10,000 for us. If you have included the ACLU as a beneficiary in your estate plans and tell us, a national ACLU benefactor will make a donation (see page 2).

• **Volunteer.** Join other activists in any number of actions. We're happy to train you. If you can spare a few hours a month & like meeting other civil libertarians, give us a call (808)-522-5900. Or go to the ACLU website & become an online activist.

You may get a phone call from a Board member or volunteer before year's end to acknowledge our appreciation or to ask for your support. Many thanks in advance for your consideration. If you want to bypass the call, send in your donation today (see page 4).

In the months ahead, we look forward to keeping you posted on Hawai'i actions and welcoming your participation. You are the lifeblood of the ACLU and we cannot fulfill the mission without you. Keep your ACLU strong and, in return, we will be ever ready to take on the toughest of fights to preserve the Constitution.

Warmest regards,

*A. Joris Watland*

## Executive Director's Message: Restoring Civil Liberties - by Vanessa Y. Chong

In the past eight years, our nation's Constitution has been greatly weakened. Our freedoms, our values, and our international reputation have been undermined by the broad and sweeping policies of the Bush Administration. On Election Day, Americans indicated loud and clear that they want our country to change direction. There is much to do when Senator Obama becomes president to restore our freedoms and values. On day one, President Obama can take several important actions to restore the Constitution with just the stroke of a pen:

- Stop Using & Condoning Torture. Direct the incoming attorney general to appoint outside special counsel to investigate and, if warranted, prosecute any violations of federal criminal laws prohibiting torture and abuse not just on crimes committed in the field but also on crimes committed by civilians, of any position, in authorizing or ordering torture or abuse.
- Close Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility. Charge and try detainees under criminal law in federal criminal courts or before military courts-martial or transfer them to countries where they will not be tortured or detained without charge.
- End & Prohibit Extraordinary Rendition. Order all agencies to end the transfer of persons, without judicial process, to secret overseas prisons to be detained and interrogated, including to countries that torture or abuse prisoners.

These practices are gross violations of our nation's dearest principles and a blight on America's good name. Other priorities may take more time but are no less urgent:

- Spying on Americans. Warrantless, dragnet spying on Americans violates our country's most basic precepts. It threatens not only our privacy but chills our First Amendment rights. Issue an executive order to ban the National Security Agency from collecting domestic or international communications of U.S. citizens and residents.
- Fix the Broken "Watch List" System. A wide variety of watch lists are in use by our government, from the "terrorist watch list" used for travelers and visitors to this country, to financial watch lists and reporting systems that impact the financial transactions of ordinary Americans. Issue an executive order requiring such watch lists to be complete-



Right now, by adding the ACLU Foundation to your will, you can leave a legacy of liberty for generations to come and defend freedom today. Through the LEGACY CHALLENGE, when you name the ACLU Foundation to your will or trust, the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust will make a matching cash donation equal to 10% of the value of your future gift, up to a maximum of \$10,000. To learn more about how to take advantage of this extraordinary LEGACY CHALLENGE: call toll-free (877)867-1025, email [legacy@aclu.org](mailto:legacy@aclu.org) or visit

ly reviewed within 3 months so that innocent Americans are not unfairly targeted. Names should be limited to only those for whom there is credible evidence of terrorist ties or activities.

- Monitoring of Activists. Direct the attorney general and other agencies to stop surveillance of political activists unless there is reasonable suspicion that they have committed a criminal act or are taking steps to do so.
- Eliminate Political Games at the Justice Department. The Civil Rights Division became ineffective in enforcing civil rights laws and avoided challenging cases that could advance civil rights. The next attorney general should invigorate the investigation and litigation of cases alleging race, national origin and sex discrimination and voting rights violations. The docket of prison conditions and confinement should be rebuilt. All settlement agreements and consent decrees should be fully enforced.
- Prohibit Blanket DNA Collection. Collection and banking of DNA samples raises extraordinary privacy and racial justice concerns. One disturbing trend, limited almost exclusively to the U.S. and United Kingdom, is to expand DNA databases to include those who have been merely arrested for, and not convicted or even charged with, a crime. Direct the attorney general to order a detailed analysis of the policy and issue regulations that limit such collection to comply with the Fourth Amendment by prohibiting taking DNA from arrestees without a warrant.

The ACLU drafted a comprehensive blueprint of presidential priorities for the new administration's first 100 days, available at [www.aclu.org/transition](http://www.aclu.org/transition). Its call to action includes fixing vulnerabilities in social security databases, ending injustices against immigrants, eliminating government-funded religious discrimination, preserving diversity and free speech as media markets seek consolidation, honoring international law enforcement treaties, demanding academic & scientific freedom for scholars, and ending discrimination against same-sex couples.

To restore America's Constitution, President Obama must demonstrate indefatigable commitment and leadership to undo a legacy of failed domestic and international policies. We in the ACLU look forward to seeing him do just that.

## Legislative Report available now!

Find out what the ACLU of Hawai'i priorities were, and how things turned out.

Visit <http://www.acluhawaii.org/legislative> or write to us for a mailed copy.

### Volunteers Needed Training Provided

Help us expand our network with community groups, schools and activists. Call (808)522-5906, or email [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)

- Join the Speakers Bureau - We'll match you with a school or group who wants to know more about the Bill of Rights.
- Be a Legislative Advocate. Work with legal staff to inform political leaders about civil liberties.
- Join the Street Team - Work a table or event handing out materials to help educate the public about civil liberties.

## Don't let the IRS tax your IRA!

Do you have an Individual Retirement Account and are at an age where you are required to take taxable distributions, whether you need them or not? You know how taxing that experience can be! Why not take advantage of the new "charitable IRA rollover" law. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a tax free gift directly from your IRA to the ACLU Foundation. Your IRA withdrawal will be free from federal income tax and count toward your required minimum distribution.

Have Questions?  
[www.aclu.org/irarollover](http://www.aclu.org/irarollover)  
Email: [legacy@aclu.org](mailto:legacy@aclu.org)  
Toll-free: 877-867-1025

This information is not intended as tax or legal advice. We recommend that you consult with your legal and financial advisors to learn how a gift would work in your circumstances. Laws and regulations governing all gifts and availability of certain life income gifts vary by state.



## 'Ohana News

**Fall 2008**...mahalo to volunteers **Karen Lee** and **Wayne Faris** who helped us prepare and send out a mailer for our Youth Award...thanks to **Monica Grant**, vice president of Resource Development for the YMCA of Honolulu for including the ACLU of Hawai'i in a panel discussion on "Progressive Philanthropy"...mahalo to the University of Hawai'i for its invitation for the ACLU to speak at High School Journalism Day! Special thanks to Board of Publications Editorial Adviser **Jay Hartwell** for the invite, to Staff Attorney **Laurie Temple** for a great session on student privacy rights, and to local attorney (and new member of the ACLU of Hawai'i Speakers Bureau) **Frank Lockwood** for helping represent the ACLU this day...our thanks to ACLU national Legal Director **Steve Shapiro** for his whirlwind tour of the islands, giving seven speeches on three islands in 3 days(!)...we appreciate the kokua of all those who helped make his visit so productive: Professor of Constitutional Law **Jon Van Dyke**, board members **Barbara Ankersmit**, **Ibrahim Aoude**, **Marianita Lopez**, **Gail Gnazzo**, **Jory Watland**, **Roger Fonseca**, and **Barbara Franklin**, our Maui hosts. **Rick Kiefer** and **Gregory Garneau** of Kiefer & Garneau in Kahu-lui, Hilo hosts **Antonia Barnhart** and **Perry Armor**, and of course everyone who came out to hear Steve speak about the Supreme Court and the national legal landscape for the ACLU...thank you! Mahalo to teacher **John Cheever** at Punahou School for including ACLU speaker **Frank Lockwood** in a panel discussion on civics for about 65 students.

### ACLU Hawai'i • News & Info

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