A time to remember. Hawaii’s fight for marriage equality was finally won in 2014, but began over two decades earlier, with tenacious advocates who, in setback after setback, never, ever gave up. Huge thanks go out to all supporters who got involved with our coalition, Hawaii United for Marriage, on Oahu, Hawaii Island and Maui, to those cool heads who helped keep the peace at contentious hearings and demonstrations, and who kept positive pressure on our lawmakers to do the right thing. We are still in awe of your courage, tenacity and vision. Bravo! Brava!

Volunteers make us strong, arm in arm. At parades and marches, at rallies and tabling events, in the media and during some great events like “Policy Perspectives on Medical Marijuana” featuring visiting speakers Mayor Robert Jacob of Sebastapol, CA, and attorney James Anthony, Jr. ACLU Hawaii also celebrated its third year as a founding sponsor of LaborFest Hawaii, to celebrate and raise awareness of organized labor’s history and importance in the islands. In the Legislature, as part of our coalitions Fresh Approach Hawaii and the Medical Cannabis Coalition of Hawaii (with Hawaii’s Drug Policy Action Group), we saw the first-ever improvements to Hawaii’s 14-year-old medical cannabis law come to passage.

2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and the 20th anniversary of the landmark Hawaii Supreme Court decision Baehr v. Lewin, which started the nationwide momentum toward marriage equality. Civil liberties are part of the national conversation, and we are so very proud and happy to enjoy the support and volunteerism of the people of Hawaii nei.

In 2015, the ACLU marks 50 years defending freedom in Hawaii, and with your kokua, we look forward to new challenges and victories for fairness and equality!

Big mahalo to some special friends.
Statewide gatherings in 2015 will help chart the course as ACLU celebrates 50 years in Hawai‘i!

We invite you to be part of a special celebration period in the life of the ACLU in 2015 marks 50 years of service in Hawai‘i. Check back for details about special events and how you can join in this thought-provoking, exciting and most important, offer opportunities to know about your own rights and use that knowledge to protect yourself and others from government abuse of power.

Our mission to protect and expand fundamental rights for all people would not be possible without the support of many individuals statewide. As a private, non-profit, your local ACLU delivers legal, legislative, and public education services every day at no cost to the public. We do not accept government funding. Our tireless advocacy is made possible by a dedicated network of volunteers, activists, donors, members, clients, staff and Board leaders. We will be spotlighting these special pioneers throughout the year.

Join us as we acknowledge how the ACLU has contributed to the Hawai‘i State Capitol Rotunda. As a direct result of this lawsuit, individuals of whatever size will be able to demonstrate at the State Capitol (or on other public property controlled by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS)): • Have a small table to distribute literature, no permit needed. • May get a permit, to reserve a space, but will no longer have to indemnify the state and will not have to obtain insurance if they cannot afford it.

Prison conditions: With the Human

2014 Legislative Program Highlights

The ACLU of Hawai‘i monitored hundreds of bills and testified many times during the Hawai‘i State Legislative session. We lobby lawmakers, meet with community allies, conduct public education campaigns and engage grassroots participation through email and social media, helping supporters advance civil rights. Victories include:

• Passage of SB 1 (marriage equality) during the Special Legislative Session of 2013.

• Advancing the repeal of reform drug laws that do more harm than good, including laws governing medical marijuana and adult use of marijuana.

JUNAUV-HI has been an active participant in the legislatively-convened Medical Marijuana Dispensary Task Force throughout 2014.

• Promoting discussion among lawmakers, religious and church and state in the delivery of early education to Hawai‘i’s kids, and how the right to vote can be better protected in the face of natural disasters, especially in rural areas.

The 2015 session opens 1/21/15. Join our private email list for legislative updates and breaking news from the ACLU of Hawai‘i. Email: adme@acluhawaii.org.

2014 Volunteer Leadership, Committees & Working Groups

The ACLU’s impact is magnified by the tireless efforts of our volunteer leaders mahalo!

Committees & Working Groups.

Annual Meeting: George Atkins, Bar- bara Ankersmit, Pamela Lichty, Y. Taomae

Davis Levin 1st Amendment Conference: Ibrahim Aoude, Mark Davis, Paul Sullivan, Matthew Winter.

Finance: Rick Schneider, Patrick Y. Taomae.

Fundraising: L. Richard Fried, Jr., Gen. Campaign Chair.

Amicus Campaign: Roger W. Fonseca, Davis Levin, Patrick Y. Taomae.


Nominations: Haitam Al Hakim, Andrew Iwase, Jeff Hong, Jackie Young.

Youth Affairs: Esther Solomon, John Karen Lee, Brooke Wilson, Jackie Young.

Board of Directors: Barbara A. Ankersmit – President, Haitam Al Hakim – Vice President, Moana Asam Yost – Secretary

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