

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2018

CONTACT:

Andrea Nandoskar

Education Program Manager

Historic Hawaii Foundation

808-523-2900

Andrea@historichawaii.org

**HISTORIC
HAWAII
FOUNDATION**

**FORUM CELEBRATES ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE IN HAWAII
Identifying Underrepresented Stories & Related Cultural Sites is Goal of Forum**

HONOLULU: A unique community forum to explore heritage sites, their under-told stories and perspectives on cultural identity and place will be held in Honolulu's East West Center January 26-27, 2018. The two-day meeting will focus on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) heritage in the Hawaiian Islands.

"Identity and Place: Celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage in the Hawaiian Islands" will gather perspectives and plans for identifying, preserving and sharing sites that are significant to the heritage of AANHPI communities in Hawai'i.

Using the National Park Service's upcoming report *"Finding a Path Forward: Asian American/Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study"* as a foundation, the AANHPI Hawai'i Forum is a platform to give voice to underrepresented narratives from the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander populations and to identify sites associated with them. The outcome for the forum is to facilitate the designation of these sites as National Historic Landmarks and list them in the National Register of Historic Places.

"For several years, the Park Service has been striving to tell the histories of all Americans and to discover the stories preserved in the nation's parks, trails and historic sites," said Kiersten Faulkner, executive director of Historic Hawai'i Foundation. "We see the upcoming heritage theme study as an opportunity to explore those stories for Hawaii's peoples. The Forum provides

a space for conversations about the importance of place in telling stories and shaping both distinct and intertwined identities in Hawaii's multi-cultural communities.”

The Forum is presented by Historic Hawai'i Foundation in partnership with Bishop Museum, East West Center, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, National Park Service, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu (UHWO), Academy of Creative Media, UHWO and Wai'ananae High School Searider Productions.

“The ‘place’ I've identified with all my life includes an ocean as well as the archipelago of islands where I was born and where the bones of my ancestors rest,” notes Amy Stillman, Professor of American Culture and Musicology, University of Michigan, a featured presenter. “Historic preservation is one way to ensure that storied sites of significance will continue to exist for the generations coming after us. It is an honor and privilege to participate in those conversations at this forum.”

The forum is open to the public and those who have an interest in identifying and sharing underrepresented stories and related sites connected to these populations, including community members, teachers, students, local historians, cultural practitioners, planners, elected officials and members of the general public.

The forum and related events will be held at the Imin Conference Center, East West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii on Friday evening, January 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 27 from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Friday evening kickoff event will showcase the **Youth Video Project**, featuring short films that share student perspectives on history, culture, place and identity. The project is a creative partnership between college student mentors at the Academy of Creative Media at University of Hawai'i West Oahu and 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in Wai'ananae High School's Searider Productions video production program. The event includes a panel discussion with students, mentors and special guests discussing the project, their experiences and what they learned.

The **Saturday Forum** will include keynote speakers, panel presentations, breakout groups and an action planning session. Three themes will be used to guide content topics: Identity, Culture and Place; Stewardship of Place: The Sacred, the Profane and the Mundane; and Challenging Inequality: Histories of Resistance.

Featured presenters and facilitators include:

- Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu;
- Mary Yu Danico, Director, Michi and Walter Weglyn Endowed chair; Director, Asian American Transnational Research Initiative and Professor of Sociology, Cal Poly Pomona;
- Elaine Jackson-Retondo, History Program Manager and Acting National Historic Landmarks Program Manager, Pacific West Region, National Park Service;
- Kelly Marsh, Adjunct Professor, University of Guam;
- Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor, PhD, Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa;
- Konrad Ng, Executive Director, Shangri La Center for Islamic Arts and Cultures;
- Gary Okihiro, PhD, Professor of International and Public Affairs and the founding director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University;
- Dorothy Fujita Rony, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies, UC Irvine;
- Amy Stillman, Professor of American Culture and Musicology, University of Michigan;
- Stephanie Toothman, PhD, retired, formerly Associate Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, National Park Service.

Youth Video Project

Friday, January 26

5:00- 7:00 p.m.

Imin Conference Center, East West Center, Honolulu, Hawai‘i

1777 East West Road, Honolulu

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

More information and register: <http://aanhpi.historichawaii.org/>

AANHPI Forum

Saturday, January 27

8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Imin Conference Center, East West Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i

1777 East West Road, Honolulu

\$65 Early Bird through January 5; General \$85; Student \$30

More information and register: <http://aanhpi.historichawaii.org/>

Additional Opportunities to Engage:

Livestream the Youth Video Project beginning at 5:00 p.m. on January 26 via Historic Hawaii Foundation's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HistoricHawaiiFoundation/>

Livestream the Forum beginning at 9:00 a.m. on January 27 and view presentations and participate as part of a virtual group beginning at 5:00 p.m. on January 26. Free. Registration required. Visit <http://aanhpi.historichawaii.org/engage/> for more information and to register.

Contact Historic Hawai'i Foundation at 808-523-2900 or member@historichawaii.org with questions. For more information and to register, see <http://aanhpi.historichawaii.org/>

#

Historic Hawaii Foundation: *Helping People Preserve Historic Places.*

HHF is the only statewide non-profit organization solely dedicated to preserving the historic buildings, sites, communities and objects that tell the unique stories of Hawaii's multilayered history. Founded in 1974, HHF has become the driving force behind historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, offering educational events and training for local communities and providing technical assistance to make preservation accessible.

Website: www.historichawaii.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HistoricHawaiiFoundation/>

Twitter: @HistoricHawaii

Forum Partners:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum: Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawaii and the Pacific.

Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art: DDFIA promotes the study and understanding of Islamic arts and cultures.

East West Center: The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the U.S. government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments in the region.

National Park Service: NPS preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. Specific involvement includes the Cultural Resources Program in the Pacific West Region; Honouliuli Confinement Camp National Monument; World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument; and the Hawaii Pacific Regional Office

Searider Productions, Waianae High School: Searider Productions provides students with the skills, attitude and knowledge needed for success in both the global and local communities.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii: JCCH's mission is to be a vibrant resource, strengthening our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawaii. We do this through relevant programming, meaningful community service and innovative partnerships that enhance the understanding and celebration

of our heritage, culture and love of the land. To guide us in this work we draw from the values found in our Japanese American traditions and the spirit of Aloha.

University of Hawaii, West Oahu, offers a distinct, student-centered baccalaureate education that integrates the liberal arts with professional and applied fields. We develop life-long learners enriched and informed by career competencies and educational opportunities that address state, regional, and international needs. As a diverse and inclusive indigenous-serving institution, UH West Oahu embraces Native Hawaiian culture and traditions while simultaneously providing an environment where students of all ethnic backgrounds are valued, respected, and supported. Our campus fosters excellence in teaching and learning and serves the community of Hawaii by providing an accessible and affordable college experience.