



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lynne Jenkins McGivern, President, Hawaii Women Lawyers (808)-539-0438

Five Outstanding Women to Receive Hawaii Women Lawyers Awards on April 13

A lawyer who defended Kamehameha Schools admission policy to benefit Native Hawaiian children, a prominent Circuit Court judge, a 91-year-old advocate for the elderly, a retired associate law school dean, and a congresswoman will be honored by the Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) at its annual awards reception on Friday, April 13, 2007, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Plaza Club.

“The careers and accomplishments of these five distinguished women reveal passionate commitment to the community and also promote HWL’s mission by enhancing the status of women and opening doors for future generations of women” said Lynne Jenkins McGivern, President of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

The 2006 Hawaii Women Lawyers awardees are:

Colleen Wong, Chief Legal Officer, Kamehameha Schools
Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award

Attorney Colleen Wong leads the legal team that obtained the favorable ruling upholding the admissions policy of Kamehameha Schools to benefit Native Hawaiian children. She also donates her time to numerous nonprofit boards, including the Girl Scout Council, the Kahiau Foundation, the Native Hawaiian Bar Association, and the Junior League of Honolulu.

Judge Sabrina S. McKenna, Circuit Court judge
Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award

Judge McKenna represents the wide range of choices available to women lawyers. She has served as an assistant professor at the UH Law School, general counsel to a top 50 Hawaii corporation, and an attorney in the private sector. She has been a judge at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit for the past 11 years, and is the chair of the Hawaii Supreme Court’s Committee on Court Interpreters which works to improve access to justice for persons with limited English proficiency. She is on the Board of the Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. In college, she was a member of the UH Wahine Basketball Team.

Shimeji Ryusaki Kanazawa, Advocate for the Aging
Lifetime Achievement Award

Shimeji Kanazawa has devoted much of her 91 years to serving the aging community, starting with her appointment by Governor John A. Burns on the Commission on Aging,

on which she continues to serve today. She has served on the Federal Council on Aging, the White House Conference on Aging, and the Hawaii State Conference on Aging. She pioneered Project Dana, an interfaith volunteer program in which 30 churches/temples provide outreach support services for 900 frail elderly and disabled persons in the State.

Carol Mon Lee, retired Associate Dean, UH William S. Richardson School of Law
Distinguished Service Award

Carol Mon Lee has devoted her career to the support and advancement of women in the legal profession. When she recently retired from the UH Law School, students and faculty recognized her for her unparalleled knowledge about the law school and her efforts to make the law school experience as personal and rewarding as possible. She is one of the founders of the Hawaii Women Lawyers and the Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, and was the president of the Hawaii Justice Foundation.

Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono
President's Award

Mazie Keiko Hirono has lived a life of firsts for women lawyer leaders in public service, exploring many paths and helping open doors for women to follow and succeed. She was the first immigrant woman of Asian ancestry to be elected to a statewide office. Now she is the first immigrant woman to have been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In her first term as the delegate for the 2nd Congressional District, she serves on two key House Committees: Education and Labor, and Transportation and Infrastructure. Congresswoman Hirono draws on her 14 years of experience at the State Legislature, and her eight years as Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor, to represent the people of Hawaii in Washington.

For more information, contact Lynne Jenkins McGivern, President of Hawaii Women Lawyers,
(808)- 539-0438