

 American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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Vol. 37, No. 9, July, 2016

BREAKING!
Davis Levin 1st
Amendment Conference
2016 WINNER
"Hometown Media Awards"
for national excellence in
public affairs programming



Legislative Session 2016 Summary: Big wins for ACLU

Our legislative program advocates to protect the rights guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions. Vigilant ACLU advocacy at local and statewide levels helps create progressive change and block proposed laws that erode constitutional rights. We depend on your input to help us strategize, and we're always eager to hear the civil rights issues facing your community. Mahalo to our members and allies for all of your support this year! The 2016 legislative session just wrapped up and, thanks to your support, we saw some big wins for civil rights.



INSIDE!

- 2016 legislative round up
- 'Ohana News
- New "Know Your Rights" guides
- Edward Snowden Hawai'i event honored with national award



Victory! Equality in Health Insurance. At a time when other states' leaders have turned their backs on the transgender community, the Hawai'i State Legislature reaffirmed its commitment to equality by approving a bill that will ensure that all people are treated equally by their health insurance providers. House Bill No. 2084, signed into law by Governor Ige as Act 135, bans discrimination in health insurance on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity. This new law makes it illegal for health insurance providers to deny benefits to a plan participant because a person is transgender, or to include discriminatory blanket exclusions for coverage of transition-related care. This bill represents an important policy shift towards a more inclusive and medically accurate approach to the healthcare needs of transgender people.

Other wins include bills to establish an independent review board for cases of police officer-involved deaths, compensate victims of wrongful incarceration, allow for the early release of certain misdemeanors and, the defeat of a trespass bill that would have continued the harmful (and potentially unconstitutional) trend of criminalizing the poor for being homeless.



Save the Date, details to follow!
2016 Annual Membership Meeting & Bill of Rights Day Celebration
Thursday, December 8th, 5:00 p.m. (registration), program 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Maui Room
ADA-accessible, free & open to the public

The ACLU of Hawai'i Foundation - 50+ years of service!

Your gift is tax-deductible and funds our legal and public education work statewide. Gifts of any size are deeply appreciated! Checks can be made payable to "ACLU-HI Foundation" and mailed to P.O. Box 3410, Hon., HI 96801 To give by phone using a credit card, call Kit Grant at (808) 522-5904.

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Day tel: _____ Email: _____ Add to ACLU-HI private email list? Y N

___ \$51.00 (\$1 for each year of our history!) ___ \$102.00 ___ Other gift amount: \$ _____

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___ I'd like to discuss adding the ACLU to my estate plan. Please contact me.

___ I'd like to volunteer at the ACLU of Hawai'i. Please contact me.



Privacy bill vetoed: Governor Ige vetoed legislation that would have protected employees' privacy on social media, citing difficulties with enforcement. House Bill No. 1739 was a part of the ACLU's #TakeCTRL Campaign, in which state lawmakers around the country simultaneously introduced privacy legislation to underscore the unique and powerful role local legislatures have in protecting privacy. H.B. 1739 would have prohibited employers from requesting or requiring access to your personal social media accounts. While we are disappointed by the Governor's veto, we are heartened that this bill enjoyed wide public and bipartisan support, passing through the Hawai'i State Legislature without a single "no" vote! We look forward to working on this issue in the 2017 legislature.

Priorities for 2017: We Need Your Help! Even after such a successful legislative session, we still have a long way to go, especially in the area of **law enforcement transparency and accountability**. Hawai'i still does not have a comprehensive, state wide policy for the use of **body-worn cameras** for police officers, and we are still the *only* state in the country without a **statewide police employment standards and training board**. The people of Hawai'i also remain vulnerable to unjustified seizures under Hawai'i's **civil asset forfeiture laws**, which authorize law enforcement to seize – and profit from – your personal property without ever having to prove that you committed a crime.

With your help, we'll continue to work on these issues and more. We want to hear your ideas! Which issues are most important to you? Are there areas of civil rights where you believe our office could be doing more? Are you interested in volunteering on a particular issue? Let us know! Your voice matters and your involvement makes our work possible.

Contact us at legislative@acluhawaii.org or at 522-5906.





Lois Perrin and Daniel Gluck

mission. Their combined 20+ years of tenure leaves an incredible legacy: real, positive changes to our rights – often for our most marginalized populations. Their legal wins form the foundation of our "Know Your Rights" resources including the 1st Amendment Toolkit, the Youth Rights Guide, the Homeless Rights Guide (English and Chuukese versions), the Voting Rights Guide, and more! A nationwide search is underway for our next Legal Director – stay tuned! We also said a fond aloha to Legal and Legislative Assistant **Sarah Recktenwald**, who left to attend law school. We welcomed 1–year Legal Fellow **Katie Mullins**, and legal interns **Kate Harp**, **Joyce Lee**, and **Lucien Wang**.



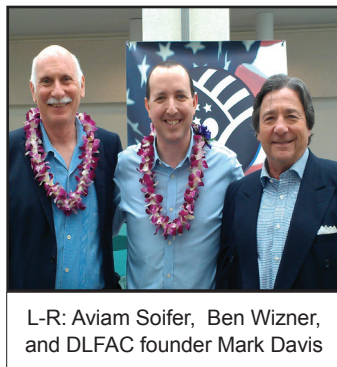
L-R: Lucian Wang, Joyce Lee, Katie Mullins

v. Hellerstedt at the US Supreme Court. **PBS Hawai'i & Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking (HWIF)** recently teamed up for an advance screening of "Peace Officer" – a powerful Independent Lens documentary about overly broad, military-style policing tactics. Mahalo

'Ohana News! Our work to protect and advance civil rights would not be possible without generous donations by supporters of time, talent and funding. As a government watchdog, our independence is paramount. We never seek or accept government grants, relying instead on the local generosity of passionate civil libertarians to fund our work. A heartfelt "mahalo" to all our supporters statewide for helping us make Hawai'i's government more fair and more just for all. **Leadership transitions:** Adding to the "honor roll" of distinguished legal minds that have passed through the doors of the local ACLU: We bid "a hui hou" (a fond farewell for now) to **Lois K. Perrin**, Of Counsel, who retired from the law in January, and Legal Director **Daniel M. Gluck**, who left the ACLU in June to become Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission.



The **Access to Justice Conference**, educating those seeking justice for the underserved, is presented yearly by the **University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law**. This year, **Daniel Gluck** co-presented a breakout session at the free, public conference titled "Problem-Solving Homelessness."



L-R: Aviam Soifer, Ben Wizner, and DLFAC founder Mark Davis

Ben Wizner was back in the islands, teaching during the law school's "J-term." He also did a public event speaking about national security. Ben is director of the ACLU's national Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, and was a featured speaker at our 2015 Davis Levin First Amendment Conference (DLFAC) via video conference with his client, **Edward Snowden**. The DLFAC was recently honored with a national award for excellence in public affairs programming in the **Alliance for Community Media's 2016 Hometown Media Awards!** Special thanks to **Ku'uipo Rossiter** and our friends at **Ōlelo Community Media**, and to **Ho'ike Community Television**, **Akakū Community Media**, and **Nā Leo o Hawai'i Community Media** for a statewide, live, and awesome production! A free closed-captioned copy of the event has been sent to the permanent collections of every school and public library in the state. Free copies are available by contacting our office.

to HWIF's **Vera Zambonelli** for inviting us to co-moderate the post-film discussion. Sincere thanks to the 10th grade history class and teacher **Laura Davis** at Mid Pacific Institute, who invited the local ACLU to assist her students researching racial profiling, specifically contrasting racial discrimination in the United States during World War II and post-9/11. Our expert speakers this day were Board of Directors members **Roger W. Fonseca**, **Steven Levinson**, and **Marianita Lopez** – thank you!



Mid Pacific Institute event (Laura Davis photo)



Keep Civil Liberties Strong in Hawai'i – Make Your Donation Today!

Almost all of the ACLU's financial support comes from individual donations. We do not accept government funds.

This unrivaled independence gives the Hawai'i affiliate the power to fulfill its mission and be a tireless and effective advocate for all people. **Your donations promote year-round advocacy such as:**

- Legal Program impact – often settling cases without having to file lawsuits to secure the rights of some of most vulnerable in our community
- Know your rights on breaking issues – sharing essential information to empower individuals about their fundamental rights
- Legislative education for sound public policy – working with community groups and lawmakers to shape balanced proposals
- Community outreach – free public events to raise awareness about issues affecting Hawai'i with an emphasis on reaching youth

Propelling the programs even further are the hundreds of volunteer hours donated from cooperating attorneys, working groups and Board leaders. This extraordinary combination allows the local ACLU to provide our services statewide at no cost to the public.

We realize the many demands made on your time and funds, greatly appreciate your consideration, and hope to earn your support today!

Barbara A. Ankersmit

Barbara A. Ankersmit
Board President

L. R. Fried, Jr.

L. Richard Fried, Jr.
General Campaign Chair

Vanessa Y. Chong

Vanessa Y. Chong
Executive Director

Look for Foodland's "Give Aloha" in September 2016, ACLU Hawai'i is 77407! Also, you can give via Aloha United Way – ask about it at work!



Know your rights, Hawai'i!

FREE COPIES MAILED, OR VISIT THESE GUIDES ONLINE! www.acluhawaii.org

When the ACLU does its job (thanks to your support!), bad laws change. Rights are respected. Government is better behaved, and the public is ready with useful information to defend those rights. We capture the facts into useful "Know Your Rights" guides, specific to the Aloha State!

- NEW** Rights of the Homeless (also available in Chuukese)
NEW Voting Rights Guide (newly expanded for 2016)
NEW Youth Rights Guide (for public school age students)
 First Amendment Toolkit (all about protest in Hawai'i)
 Your Right to Protest (English/Hawaiian)

More online including: Immigration, LGBT, Privacy, Incarcerated persons and more. For free mailed copies, email office@acluhawaii.org or call (808)522-5906 (toll-free, neighbor islands: 1-877-544-5906).

ACLU Hawai'i • News & Info
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