



American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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www.acluhawaii.org

INSIDE!

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Please welcome our newest staff member, George Cordero! George joins us as our Legal and Legislative Assistant, and we're lucky to have him. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science & Communication Studies from the California State University of Sacra-

mento. His background includes working for non-profit organizations, the state of California, and higher education institutions. During his leisure, George likes to hike, bike, hang out at the beach, and try new desserts. Welcome, George!



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**news
& info**

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**ACLU Hawai'i
Civil Liberties
Symposium 2017**

Sat., 10/28/17 Honolulu, HI



Civil Liberties Symposium 2017 - Call for ACLU supporter input

Help us plan the best Symposium by ranking the **top three workshops** (1,2,3 or A,B,C) you'd find useful & interesting. Or, let us know of a topic we've missed that you think would be good for us to cover. Big mahalo for your input by Friday, 6/30/17.



**Workshop
topics
survey
2017**

Please reply by 6/30:

Email: office@acluhawaii.org

Fax: (808)522-5909

Ph: (808)522-5906

Neighbor islands toll free:
1-877-544-5906

Mail: P.O. Box 3410 Hon. HI
96801

___ **LGBT equality:** transgender and non-binary gender rights, medically accurate sex-education in pubic schools, equal access to healthcare.

___ **Abortion access, reproductive freedom:** New threats to abortion access like "targeted regulation of abortion providers" ("TRAP") laws, the state of access to abortion in Hawai'i.

___ **Religious favoritism, religious discrimination:** Muslim bans, school vouchers, grants-in-aid, prayer, use of public facilities – all about separation of church and state.

___ **Free speech, privacy & technology:** device border searches, DNA databanks, facial recognition, police surveillance, drug testing, airport body scanners and more.

___ **Smart Justice:** The rebuild of the O'ahu Community Correctional Center as a chance to take on unconstitutional conditions, change policies to reserve prison and jail for serious crimes.

PEOPLE POWER

JOIN THE RESISTANCE – Hawai'i actions underway! www.peoplepower.org

Enlist, resist, persist.

SAVE THE DATE for the 2017 Civil Liberties Symposium! Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, 12:30p-4p, Honolulu location TBA. Hilo event in early planning stages for Sept 2017.

Around the United States, there is an outpouring of advocacy and action in response to a steady drumbeat of unconstitutional policies from Washington, D.C.

The ACLU is ready.

We have spent the last 97 years fighting for fundamental rights—no matter who is President, no matter who is in power. Litigating landmark cases, and ensuring laws uphold the Consitution. In all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the ACLU is on the job—made strong by the indispensable support and generosity of generations of people who care. People like you. Today's ACLU is the strongest it has ever been, and the fight is more important than ever. Together, we make government think twice about pushing policies and programs that harm our rights, our liberty, and our democracy.

The fight for civil liberties is ultimately local—and we hope you'll help us put together the best Hawai'i Civil Liberties Symposium ever! The short survey below will help us choose three relevant, action-oriented workshops to prepare.

Mahalo nui loa for your support, your ideas and your action!

___ **Aloha without Borders:** *Hawai'i v. Trump* update, Hawaii's immigration & refugee policies, how attorneys w/o immigration law background can kōkua, basic "Know Your Rights" training. (Open to all, CLE credit for local attorneys)

___ **People Power!** All about the ACLU nationwide, grassroots mobilization effort, Hawai'i efforts, why local politics will save the day, and how you can get involved!

___ **Legal observation - what is it, how do you do it?** Help others express and defend their 1st Amendment rights by being a neutral monitor, documenting conflicts between law enforcement and demonstrators.

___ **Violence, militarization & reenvisioning Hawaii's policing:** Body cams,"1033" program military surplus, riot/SWAT use, civil asset forfeiture, rulemaking & disciplinary transparency.



Integrated advocacy - "making big body" for civil rights!

While the ACLU as a whole is a large organization, the Hawai'i affiliate has a small but dedicated staff. We amplify our impact through "integrated advocacy" - focusing our legislative, litigation, and education work on specific issues in Hawai'i. Two highlights for 2016-2017: **SMART JUSTICE**. No prison without a plan. Dismantle the drivers of mass incarceration and unconstitutional conditions in our prisons and jails in Hawai'i; **ALOHA WITHOUT BORDERS**. Safeguard the rights of refugees and immigrants in the face of xenophobic, closed-border politics coming out of Washington.

For in-depth reports on our work please visit us online:
• April, 2017 Legal Report: by Legal Director Mateo Caballero
www.acluhawaii.org/Legal4_2017
• April, 2017 Legislative Report by Advocacy Coordinator Mandy Finlay
www.acluhawaii.org/Advocacy4_2017



how long. Facing a massive public works project in rebuilding the Oahu Community Correctional Center ("OCCC"), the State must look to long-term, comprehensive solutions to overincarceration prior to developing plans to construct any new correctional facility.

Our legislative program has been at the frontlines educating lawmakers and community members about why **it makes no sense to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a prison before the State has a concrete plan to reduce our out-of-control incarceration rate**, and opposing lawmakers' many proposals to further **criminalize homelessness and poverty in Hawai'i**.

Our legal program has concluded the case *Martin et al. v. City & County of Honolulu* (homeless sweeps case): after settling the main case—thus, requiring the City and County of Honolulu to pay for property destroyed during the sweeps and to follow detailed **due process procedures for conducting the sweeps and for disposing of property**—the City and County put taxpayers on the hook for \$395,000 in attorneys' fees and costs. Before the lawsuit was filed, the city unfortunately flatly rejected an offer to settle this matter (and change its unconstitutional criminalization of homelessness through property seizure) for about \$28,000.

On *January 6, 2017*, we submitted a 28-page **complaint to the United States Department of Justice over unconstitutional conditions of confinement in Hawai'i's jails and prisons**. The complaint details how the inhumane conditions at seven of nine State-operated correctional facilities violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. The Complaint calls for a federal investigation, and if necessary, a lawsuit. With crime at a 40-year low, we urge the State of Hawai'i to address the root cause of overcrowding, which is too many people in jail for too long, through smart justice - comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Even as Hawaii's crime rate is at a 40-year low, seven out of Hawaii's nine correction centers are overcrowded — three of those, 150% or more over their capacity. Locking up nonviolent, low-level offenders and pre-trial detainees who can't afford bail costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year and drives unconstitutional, unsafe conditions. Just building a larger jail won't cut it, if we don't reconsider who we lock up and for



would have targeted our immigrant 'ohana by, for example, deputizing Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") agents to make arrests for low-level "public order" offenses (giving them pretense to racially profile immigrants), denying immigrants access to state university or public employment, or deeming Limited Purpose Driver's Licenses unacceptable for notary purposes.

We prepared a **Know-Your-Rights presentation in English and Spanish for immigrants at risk of deportation in Hawai'i**. The presentation covers what to do when confronted by the police or ICE in the street, at home, or while driving. We've now given this presentation six times on three different islands, reaching hundreds of immigrants and allies. Find it on our website "Know Your Rights" section. **To ask about a presentation for your group, please contact us!**

ACLU of Hawai'i joins **People Power** in asking local governments to not collaborate with ICE: As part of a coordinated nationwide campaign spanning twelve states, we sent letters to all four counties and the State of Hawai'i detailing risks to local governments and their communities choosing to join Trump's deportation force, focusing on two policies of immediate concern: **ICE detainers**, which ask local law enforcement to hold people in jail for an additional 48 hours, often without legal authority or probable cause, and participation in the controversial **287(g) program**, which allows the Federal government to deputize local police as ICE agents without appropriate training or resources, often resulting in racial profiling and civil rights violations.

We joined 26 other local groups in forming the **Hawai'i Coalition on Civil Rights** in response to Trump's executive orders banning travel and refugees and revamping immigration enforcement. As part of the coalition, we've participated in rallies and press conferences with government officials. The coalition has also been active in coordinating the local response at the legislature and the media.

Together with the Northern California and Utah affiliates, we filed a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") complaint against Customs and Border Protection ("CPB") seeking internal communications about the Executive Order targeting majority-Muslim countries and individuals traveling who were affected. With this lawsuit, we hope to learn **whether (and when) CBP complied with the various court orders restraining the enforcement of the original executive order**.

With the rise of hate crimes and discrimination against Muslims and other religious minorities, we prepared a 20-page Know-Your-Rights guide addressing what to do when faced with **anti-Muslim discrimination**; freedom of religion in public schools, the workplace, public accommodations, prisons, public housing, among other places and situations, under both state and federal law. Available on our website - or contact us for copies!

After discriminatory remarks by a teacher from Campbell High School, we sent a letter to the Hawai'i State Department of Education and its Civil Rights Compliance Office reminding them of their obligations under state and federal law to safeguard all students from discrimination, intimidation, and harassment based on protected characteristics.

As our State Attorney General moves forward with a lawsuit challenging President Trump's Muslim Ban, we took that power to the Legislature, and, side-by-side with immigrants' rights groups and community allies, we unequivocally told lawmakers that **Hawaii should not play accomplice to unconstitutional policies**. And you know what? They agree. Advocates successfully defeated bills this session that

Executive Director special message

Aloha ACLU of Hawai'i 'Ohana member,

Whether you are a new or long-time friend – we are very grateful for your support of the ACLU mission to protect fundamental rights for all people. You are needed now more than ever!

And, because of this special relationship, I wanted to loop you in, first. After serving the ACLU mission in Hawai'i for 36 years – I will be retiring sometime in spring 2018.

This timeline will enable me to work with the Board of Directors and staff to ensure a smooth transition and leave the affiliate well positioned for the next Executive Director. The Board and I have carefully developed a plan so that the critical advocacy of the ACLU locally and nationally – made possible by your dedicated and generous support – can continue tirelessly and fearlessly without skipping a beat.

The public announcement of my departure will occur later this month. For now, I'm quietly sharing my news with ACLU family members only.

Please know that until my retirement, I will continue to be fully engaged in all aspects of affiliate operations and will assist the Board, as appropriate, with the search process.

This gives you and I plenty of time to catch up. In addition, there will be several opportunities for you to join me in meeting the local leadership and staff talent who will take the affiliate to the next level of advocacy.

It's been an honor and privilege to be part of an important mission. More talk story later.

Warm regards,

Vanessa Y. Chong
Phone direct (808)522-5903 & email <vcchong@acluhawaii.org>

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