



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Awarded \$117,626 for Japanese American Confinement Site Educational Project *National Park Service allocated nearly \$3 million for various projects nationwide*

Honolulu – The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is the recipient of a generous grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to help produce an hour long educational documentary on the Hawaii Confinement Sites.

In the program's second year, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants will help fund projects in a dozen states. The Cultural Center was awarded \$117,626 to produce the first full-length educational documentary on the Hawai'i internment experience during World War II.

“While the mass incarceration of Japanese on the U.S. West Coast has been widely documented, little is known by the general public about the Hawai'i internees, their experiences and the local sites at which they were confined,” said Brian Niiya, Director of Program Development for the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. “Although the number of local Japanese who were interned was small relative to the Territory's total Japanese population, the impact of their internment was disproportionately large. The internees were community leaders and more often than not, family men. This documentary will give broad-based access to a part of Hawai'i's history that has gone missing from our classrooms, communities, and consciousness for over 65 years.”

The story will be told through video interviews with former internees and their family members, scholars and experts, historic documents and photographs, and period-based dramatic recreations and reenactments.

Other local organizations that have also been awarded funds from this federal grant include the University of Hawai'i, Center for Oral History which will receive \$29,080; and the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu which will receive \$98,544.

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Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program in 2006 to preserve and interpret the places where Japanese Americans were sequestered after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The law authorizes up to \$38 million in grants for the life of the program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites. The program aims to teach and inspire present and future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement and demonstrate the nation’s commitment since then to equal justice under the law.

Congress appropriated \$3 million for grants in the current fiscal year. They were awarded in a competitive process, matching \$2 in federal money for every \$1 in non-federal funds and “in-kind” contributions raised by groups working to preserve the sites and their histories. Congress appropriated \$1 million for the fiscal year 2009, the first year of the grants. That year, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i received a grant for \$43,187 for a traveling exhibition that will debut at the 2011 Honouliuli pilgrimage in February.

To see a complete list of the funded projects, see the attached press release from the National Park Service.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i, a non-profit organization, strives to strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai‘i. It is located at 2454 South Beretania Street in Mō‘ili‘ili. The Cultural Center features a Community and Historical Gallery, Resource Center, Kenshikan martial arts dōjō, Seikōan Japanese teahouse and Gift Shop. For more information call (808) 945-7633, email info@jcch.com or visit the website at www.jcch.com.

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