



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2010

Media Contact: Denise Tagomori Park
Public Relations/Membership Manager
(808) 945-7633 Ext. 27/Eve (808) 780-3104
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Email: park@jccch.com

No Shame!: Talking About the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Japanese American Experience in Hawai'i *Famed actor George Takei to provide keynote address*

Honolulu – The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, in collaboration with the Equality Hawai'i Foundation, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i and Japanese American Citizens League—Honolulu Chapter, presents *No Shame!: Talking about the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Japanese American Experience in Hawai'i* on **Sunday, September 12, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Manoa Grand Ballroom** on the fifth floor of the Cultural Center. This provocative program will feature a keynote address by actor George Takei, Q&A and panel discussion on the subject.

This public discussion is timely and relevant, as part of the growing recognition that gay, lesbian, bisexuals, and transgender persons suffer from discrimination every day of their lives. Takei's speech titled *Embracing Change* will be followed by a quick Q&A with the actor. Best known for his role as Mr. Sulu in the acclaimed television and film series *Star Trek*, Takei's acting career spans more than five decades. He and his family spent five years during World War II incarcerated in American concentration camps in Rohwer, Arkansas, and Tule Lake, California. Takei is chairman emeritus of the Japanese American National Museum, he chairs the council of governors of East West Players, the nation's foremost Asian Pacific American theater, and he is a member of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender political organization. An advocate for marriage equality, Takei married his longtime partner, Brad Altman, on Sept. 14, 2008, at the Democracy Forum of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Wedding guests included Hawaii Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

-MORE-

Following Takei’s presentation, there will be a panel discussion moderated by University of Hawai‘i Professor Christine R. Yano, Ph.D. The panelists will include Josephine (Jo) Chang, co-founder of “Da Moms,” a support group for parents with gay, lesbian, and transgender children; Micah Inoue, a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo studying psychology with plans to focus on marriage and family therapy; Kim Coco Iwamoto, member of the Board of Education for the State of Hawai‘i; Camaron Miyamoto, coordinator of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Student Services at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; and Rae Watanabe, volunteer with LGBTI Youth and active member in the community.

This event is part of the Cultural Center’s Japanese American Social Issues Series in Hawai‘i and is made possible by the Hawai‘i Equality Foundation through grants by the State Equality Fund and Hawai‘i People’s Fund; Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i and the Japanese American Citizens League – Honolulu Chapter.

For more information, please contact the Cultural Center at (808) 945-7633 or email info@jcch.com.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH), 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 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.

####