

League of Women Voters of Honolulu  
49 South Hotel Street, Room 314  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Honolulu, Hawaii

**President**  
Randy Ching

**Vice President**  
Charles Carole

**Secretary**  
Ann Shaver

**Treasurer**  
Bob Crone

**Editor**  
Pearl Johnson

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, Sept. 2, 11  
am – Honolulu Board  
meets at League office

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10:30  
am – Honolulu League's  
Agriculture Group  
meets at League office

Saturday, Sept. 18 – Pri-  
mary election

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### Pollworkers

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii has signed up to raise funds on Election Days. If you volunteer to work in the primary (September 18) and/or the general (November 2) elections, you can donate to the state League by assigning your paycheck to the League of Women Voters of Hawaii.

Please contact Pearl Johnson by phone (537-5471) or email (pearlj@hawaii.rr.com) for more information.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**YES**, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose:

\_\_\_ **\$40 ONE YEAR** individual membership

\_\_\_ **\$60 1-year HOUSEHOLD** membership  
(for two people who share an address.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: day \_\_\_\_\_

evening \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to  
**LWV – Honolulu**  
and return with your application form to:  
**League of Women Voters**  
**49 S. Hotel St., #314**  
**Honolulu, HI 96813**



August 2010

Phone 808 531-7448

### Rail EIS Uses Faulty Figures

As of August 4th, the Governor said she had not received the Rail Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) from the state Office of Environmental Quality Control, but has hired a financial consultant who is now working on the project.

The League has asked the Governor to hold public meetings before she decides on the FEIS, if she has the discretion to hold the meetings. She held meetings on HB 444 (Civil Unions) before she vetoed it.

The League is preparing written comments on the FEIS to the Federal and City governments and to the Governor before August 26th. One of the major concerns is that the City's transit people are using 2004 State population projections for 2030 which has been twice reduced by the State. The State projected in their 2009 revision that the 2030 Oahu population would be 100,000 less than what they projected in 2004. This should reduce the ridership projections for 2030 with the lost revenue made up by Oahu taxpayers.

The State's 2009 projections have been adopted by the City's Department of Planning and Permitting in their latest Annual Report on the Status of Land Use on Oahu.

It is interesting that 2030 projected population growth was in the 65 plus age group (88%) and in the 0-19 age group (12%). In the 20-64 age group, a loss in population was actually projected, compared with the same group in 2005. We need the Governor's consultant to look at their ridership figures.  
*Charles Carole*

### League Provides

### One-Stop Voter Information

Our website, [www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com), is now the one-stop information center for the September 18 primary election. All candidates have been invited to post their statements telling voters why they should be elected.

The state Office of Elections formerly posted this information before every election but, citing budgetary reasons, no longer does this.

Emails were sent to all candidates for whom email addresses were available. League notified all the other candidates via a press release on August 20 to all media, including blogs.

Voters should go to [www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) and click on "Election 2010 – Candidates". A list of offices being voted on in September will appear. Click on the office you're interested in and a list of all the candidates with their pictures (where available) will appear along with their statements if the candidate has sent one in.

Please remember that you get to vote for Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees and the Board of Education. Although there are residency requirements for candidates, all voters can vote to fill every vacancy.

There is confusion at every election about who can vote in these two races. Here is what the BOE site says about this: "The State of Hawaii Board of Education consists of one (1) non-voting high school student member appointed by the Hawaii State Student Council and thirteen (13) members **elected by the registered voters of two (2) at-large school board districts.**" The two districts are 1)Oahu and 2)all the neighbor islands.

The OHA website says: "While there are residency requirements for candidates seeking the district seats, **all voters statewide are permitted to vote in each of the OHA races.**"  
*Pearl Johnson*

## Ka Iwi: Embattled Coastal Lands Conserved

Since 1981, O'ahu citizens have continually organized to defend the wild natural character and scenic splendor of the southeastern tip of O'ahu. The first threat was a resort hotel and golf course planned at Queen's Beach. Then, in 1987, the threat was a residential development directly opposite Sandy Beach Park.

Now, 29 years later, the state formalized the protected status of 215 ocean-side acres, of the Ka 'Iwi Scenic Shoreline State Park. On the morning of June 4, 2010, the State Land Use Commission voted 7-0 to reclassify the Ka Iwi Shoreline from urban to conservation, making future development only remotely possible. The change was requested by Abbey Seth Mayer of the state's Office of Planning at the prompting of Senator Fred Hemmings in conjunction with the Ka Iwi Coalition and Livable Hawaii Kai Hui.

Longtime Coalition leader and spokesman Phil Estermann has since said the expected reclassification guarantees the integrity of the entire Koko Head-to-Makapu'u coast, and "reflects the will of the people and the spirit of aloha aina." Estermann spent the last five years helping shape and mentor key members of the Ka Iwi Coalition who pledge to stay vigilant and ensure the mountainside of the Ka Iwi coast remains unspoiled (a.k.a. "No Cabins on Ka Iwi") and in its wild natural state.

## TWO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

There will be two proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot in the November General Election. One concerns changing our elected school board to an appointed one. The other deals with state surpluses. We discussed our position which supports an elected school board at our August 14<sup>th</sup> State Council meeting, and affirmed our support of that position.

It was in early 1970 that League conducted its study and its position for elected school boards at some level of government was reached in late spring of 1970, in time to oppose proposed ballot amendments by the 1970 Legislature to eliminate the constitutional provision for an elected state Board of Education and to remove the provision that the Board would appoint the state superintendent. Voters rejected the proposals and reportedly, League was widely credited with influencing the vote.

The first question on the ballot will be:

"Shall the Board of Education be changed to a board appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, as provided by law?"

The second question will be:

"Shall the legislature be provided with the choice, when the state general fund balance at the close of each of two successive fiscal years exceeds five per cent of the general fund revenues for each of the two fiscal years, to provide a tax refund or tax credit to the taxpayers of the State, or to make a deposit into one or more funds, as provided by law, which shall serve as temporary supplemental sources of funding for the State in times of an emergency, economic downturn, or unforeseen reduction in revenue?"

For the first question, the enabling legislation which included all of the details was vetoed by the governor. Proposed constitutional amendments are not subject to veto.

Jean Aoki

In a press release dated June 4, 2010 the Governor noted "...the battle to preserve Ka Iwi for future generations is not over. The mauka area is not designated conservation, and the potential development of this land remains of paramount concern to the community." To that end we quote Phil Estermann, "If we lose the beauty of our coastline, you lose what it means to live Hawaii"

*Elizabeth Reilly*

## Agriculture Group Meets Sept. 7

At its meeting on August 9, the Agriculture Group returned to its original purpose which is to put farmers on state land to grow food for local consumption. Since our contact in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) says he wants support this purpose, the Group decided to work with the DOA to remove obstacles which prevent this from happening.

Members of the group will meet with the DOA contact before its next meeting on Tuesday, September 7 at 10:30 am in the League office. All who are interested in putting farmers on unused state farmland are welcome at this meeting.

*Pearl Johnson, chair*

## Monson Award Nominations

The next Monson Award celebration is scheduled for February 13, 2011. Nominations for the award are being accepted until Aug. 31.

The Donald & Astrid Monson Community Action Fund award is given annually to an organization or individual who has "made the year's outstanding contributions toward or involving public interest planning, housing, or environmental issues." Previous recipients of the award were the Sierra Club's Jeff Mikulina and Donna Wong of Hawaii's Thousand Friends.

If you would like to nominate someone for the award, call the League office at 531-7448.

## How League Stepped Up

How and why did the League come to fill a gaping hole in the information voters need?

Intending to tell members how to get the information they needed for the Primary Election, I logged on to the website of the state Of-

fice of Elections on Sunday, August 15. Always before, personal statements from all candidates could be read on this website.

To my dismay, the information was not there! The media give information on only a few candidates. We learned the Star-Advertiser's voters guide would be distributed in early September, days after absentee ballots are sent out.

Other organizations endorse their chosen candidates and put out information only on those candidates. The League had to step in.

Our webmaster Steve Trussel agreed to do the considerable work necessary to post on our website all the Office of Elections used to display.

But how to get the word out to the candidates? The Sierra Club generously gave us the email addresses they had garnered in choosing which candidates to endorse. Steve sent emails to all on the list on Thursday, informing them of the opportunity to publicize their candidacy. A few responded immediately.

Scott Foster sent out a press release later that day to all Hawaii media in order to get the word out to those candidates not on the email list.

As of late Sunday, 20 candidates have their statements posted on the website. Members. If you don't see your favorite candidate's statement posted, please tell that candidate to get busy.

*Pearl Johnson*

## Kyo-ya Wins Variance

The Moana Hotel will have a tall, massive neighbor when its neighboring Surf Rider Hotel is demolished. The City approved the variance which will allow owner Kyo-ya to ignore the Waikiki Special District (WSD) rules. Both the 100-foot Shoreline Setback and the Coastal Height Setback are being violated to such an extent that about three-fourths of the proposed tower are illegal under WSD rules.

League testified at the August 18 Council meeting that approval paves the way for all the other owners of beachfront hotels to request the same treatment, resulting in a formidable wall around Waikiki Beach.

Approval seemed to be a foregone conclusion since the Star-Advertiser reported the Council vote in its back pages.

*Pearl Johnson*

## Welcome New Member

Lois Crozer

## Mahalo Contributors

Eve Anderson

Piilani Kaopuiki

Dora Johnson

Rhonda Griswold

Kenneth & Shaunagh Robbins

Jerome Johemko & Chiye

Wenkam