

March 23, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Helen Hemmes, Tel. 935-6214
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RE: LWV of Hawaii County's Meeting on April 10, 2010

Members of the public are welcome to help the League of Women Voters of Hawaii County (LWVHC)'s celebrate the League of Women Voters (LWV)'s 90th anniversary by attending the LWVHC's annual meeting at Tex Drive In & Restaurant, Honokaa, on Saturday, April 10, 2010, at 11 a.m., to be followed by a no-host luncheon, membership business meeting, and Board meeting.

Ms. Jean Aoki, who first joined the LWV of Honolulu League in 1978, will be the guest speaker. A graduate of the University of Hawaii, College of Education, with a fifth year certificate in Elementary Education, Ms. Aoki, a retired educator, has made major contributions to both the Honolulu League and the State League over the years. She chaired, for example, a study of judicial independence in Hawaii and subsequently published a booklet on Judicial Independence in Hawaii which was widely distributed to legislators, judges, and other organizations. From 1992 to 2010, she has served as legislative team members and Legislative Liaison, concentrating on good-government issues like ethics, campaign finance, elections, op-en government, civil rights, privacy issues, and monitoring the legislative process. In 2008, she received the distinguished 2008 American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)-Hawai'i Ha'aheo Award.

Sue Irvine, vice president of the State League and past president of the LWVHC, noted, "Jean Aoki has been 'the voice' of the League at the legislature, testifying concisely and clearly on the League's position. When she speaks for the League, people listen."

Helen Hemmes, current president, LWVHC, added, "We're looking forward to hearing Jean

Aoki share highlights of League history in the state of Hawaii and then give us her perspective on critical initiatives for the League in the future to help make democracy work.”

The League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine’s Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Today the LWV remains a grassroots organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. Though the League is known widely for its voter education efforts, the League has also brought its expertise to critical issues such as health care reform, global climate changes, and many others.

Membership in the LWVHC is open to all citizens of voting age; non-citizens and citizens not yet of voting age can be Associate Members. For more information about joining the LWV or attending the annual meeting on April 10, please contact Helen Hemmes at 935-6214, Susan Dursin at 328-8514, or Donna Oba at 884-5299, or check out the website www.lwv.org.

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