



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2016

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(Historic photos of Honouliuli Internment Camp available.
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**Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Joins
Smithsonian's National Youth Summit on Japanese
American Incarceration in World War II**

*Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor partners with the
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to help students connect past
events with present-day issues.*

Honolulu, HI —Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor will participate in the “National Youth Summit on Japanese American Incarceration in World War II,” an outreach program for middle and high school students sponsored by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum. Also providing support for the Summit are Pacific Historic Parks and WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is one of four Smithsonian Affiliate organizations hosting a regional youth summit, and is partnering locally with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to host a panel discussion with scholars, family members of those incarcerated at Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Hawaii’s youth. The event, which takes place Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 10 - 11:30 am in the Museum theater, is free and open to the public.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, resulting in the imprisonment of Americans of Japanese ancestry. The three-page document changed the course of history for a segment of Americans and challenged their constitutional rights. During the opening months of World War II, almost 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of them U.S. citizens, were forced out of their homes and into detention camps established by the U.S. government. Many would spend the next three years living under armed guard, behind barbed wire.

Here on Oahu, on March 1, 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp opened. It was the longest operating and largest WWII internment and POW camp in Hawaii, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. Built on 160 acres in West Oahu, the campsite was hidden in a deep gulch that internees called jigoku dani, or "hell valley." During WWII, more than 2,300 Japanese men and women from Hawaii were detained, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and WWI veterans. On February 24, 2015, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation declaring Honouliuli a national monument.

Panelists and the audience will explore the history of Japanese American incarceration and will discuss how fear and prejudice can upset the delicate balance between the rights of citizens and the power of the state. The program will also focus on the role of young people in shaping America's past and future.

Panelists include:

- Reverend Dr. Todd Takahashi of Konko Mission Wahiawa, whose aunt, Reverend Haruko Takahashi, founder of Konko Mission was one of the few women incarcerated at Honouliuli for 18 months during WWII.
- Dr. Gary Okihiro, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. Born and raised in Aiea, Oahu, Dr. Okihiro has served as professor and senior scholar at leading national and international institutions including Princeton University, Nihon University in Japan, Cornell University, and is the founding director for both the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race and the Asian American

Studies Program at Columbia University. Dr. Okihiro is a highly acclaimed author and has published 11 books on Asian and Hawaii history, as well as numerous articles, essays and reviews. He has received numerous fellowships, grants, book awards, and appointments; was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa in 2010; and is well respected for his insight on WWII and the internment camps.

- Jane Kurahara, a member of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Hawaii Internment Education Committee. Kurahara re-discovered the Honouliuli site over 18 years ago, and since then, has worked to preserve it as a national monument.

Panelists will be joined by students who will provide their insight to what took place during WWII and its relevance to the nation's current situation and its future.

Teachers are encouraged to bring their students to the free Summit. "The National Youth Summit has been designed to engage our youth in some very powerful discussions on what took place as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941," said Shauna Tonkin, Director of Education, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. "This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, and the story of Honouliuli represents the many casualties of war and how fear can lead to devastation."

"We need to ensure that the stories of those incarcerated at Honouliuli are heard and never forgotten," said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. "Bringing the history of what happened in our own backyard to life for Hawaii's youth is so important. Our future lies in their hands and the decisions they make. By fostering a greater understanding of our past, we can help prevent something like this from ever happening again."

Seating is limited and must be reserved in advance. For more information on the National Youth Summit or to reserve seats, call 808-445-9137 or email education@pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is located on Historic Ford Island, where some of the first bombs fell during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Visitors to the Museum can see remnants from that day of infamy, including the 158-foot tall, red and white iconic Ford Island Air Field Control Tower; Hangar 37; and Hangar 79, where bullet holes still remain.

Through its preservation and restoration of World War II fighter planes and accompanying artifacts in the Museum's historic hangars, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor shares the story of the vital role aviation played in the winning of World War II, and its continuing role in maintaining America's freedom.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to develop and maintain an internationally recognized aviation museum on Historic Ford Island that educates young and old alike, honors aviators and their support personnel who defended freedom in The Pacific Region, and to preserve Pacific aviation history. Contact: 808-441-1000; Marketing@PacificAviationMuseum.org.

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. Founded on May 28, 1987, the Cultural Center has more than 5,000 members and annually connects to more than 50,000 residents and visitors through its programs and events. The Cultural Center features a historical museum, an exhibition gallery, the Tokioka Heritage Resource Center, the Kenshikan martial arts dōjō, the Seikōan Japanese teahouse, and a 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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