

Era of Japanese American Internment



Recommended Reading for Further Study

When the Akimoto's Went to War: An Untold Story of Family, Patriotism and Sacrifice During World War II by Matthew Elms

This book captures the story of three Japanese American brothers—Victor, Johnny, and Ted Akimoto—who volunteered for military service while their family members were forced into an internment camp. Despite the nation-wide fear of the Nisei—the first generation of Japanese children born in the United States who were American citizens—the Akimoto brothers pledged their loyalty and bravery to the U.S. military, wanting to prove that being an American ran deeper than race.

A Resilient Spirit: The Voice of Hawaii's Internees by Claire Sato and Violet Harada

This book presents the Japanese American wartime history through the voice of “those who lived it.” Culling through the JCCH’s archives of oral histories, poetry, memoirs, historical photos and documents, *Resilient Spirit* makes history come alive. It honors the memory of all Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II, their voice is a testament to courage and a reminder that such an injustice should never happen again.

Hawai'i Internee Directory

Internee Directory. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) presents this searchable directory of those of Japanese ancestry who were arrested and confined in the Territory of Hawai'i during World War II. Internees: *Yoshitami (Jack) Tasaka and Masao (Samuel) Nishimura*

Oral Histories

'Oral Histories' are found on the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Website [Search Page](#) using the search words 'oral history.'

Muroda, Shigeo Robert

Shigeo Muroda was born and raised in Waianae. He worked as a carpenter at the Waianae Plantation until he was picked up by the FBI in September 1942 and was sent to the Sand Island Internment camp. Shigeo moved to the Honouliuli camp in March or April 1943, right after it had opened, and stayed there until his release in December 1943. He was placed in charge of the camp mess hall at both sites. He describes his experiences as an internee, especially what it was like working in the kitchen, and other things such as how the internees spent their time and the relationships between guards and internees. There is also an extended discussion of the Japanese Buddhist meaning of “shikata ga nai,” (“it cannot be helped”-- an acceptance of a situation as it is; making the best of a bad situation) which was often used by the Japanese populace at that time, both in dealing with difficult situations in daily life and also as it related to the internment experience.

Matsumoto, Morris

Born in Waipahu, Hawaii, Matsumoto was sent to Japan at the age of two and raised there by his grandmother. He received his education in Japan and returned to Hawaii in 1935. He was a Kibei (an individual born as an American citizen but educated in Japan before returning to America). He shares his recollection of December 7, 1941 while living in Pearl City, Oahu. In 1942 he was arrested by the FBI and taken first to the Sand Island

Detention Center and then later to the Immigration Station. From the Immigration Station, Matsumoto was sent to the Honouliuli Internment Camp. At Honouliuli, he helped brew sake and wine with other internees. He also worked in the dispensary with doctors treating ill internees. Matsumoto stayed at Honouliuli for approximately two years before being sent to the Tule Lake Internment camp, where his brother was also interred.

Lesson Plans

Presented by the Japanese Culture Center of Hawai'i, this curriculum covers the internment during World War II and was developed by a team of educators, as part of several grants from the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO); the Department of the Interior, National Park Services, Historic Preservation Program; and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division. The instructional material, intended for high schools students, is designed to support the curriculum on internment for the following classes — Modern History of Hawai'i, Participation in Democracy and United States History.

Can Hawai'i's Aloha Spirit Survive a War?

Hawai'i Internment Curriculum Unit on Modern History of Hawai'i

The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i

Other curriculum can be found on the following websites:

Go For Broke National Education Center

American Battle Monuments Commission

Videos Based on Japanese-American Internment or the 442nd Regimental Combat Team

The Nisei, Japanese American soldiers in World War II documentary

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was an all-Nisei U.S. Army regiment which served in Europe during World War II.

Go For Broke: An Origin Story by Stacey T. Hayashi

Fighting not only the Germans, but rampant racism at home in the US and in the military, the brave Japanese Americans in the 100/442nd went on to be the most decorated unit for their size and time in battle in U.S. History.