



Calendar of 2nd Quarter Events

First Saturdays: Book Group

Third Saturdays: Lunch Bunch

Happy Hours: To Be Announced

Second Quarter 2024 Newsletter



President's Report

Aloha AAUW Maui Branch Members,

It is my honor and privilege to take on the role of President of our Branch after serving as Co-President with Pat Gotschalk. With Pat as Immediate Past President, our new slate of Branch leadership – VP of Programs Shawna Pabingwit, co-VPs of Membership Bevanne Bowers and Yukari Murakami, and Public Policy Chair Sonya Toma, along with the consistency and wise counsel of Treasurer Jan Moore, Secretary Pam Schultz, and Parliamentarian Dorothy Tolliver, we look forward to the year ahead.

We begin this year facing a nationwide decline in AAUW membership, which is leading to the end of some AAUW branches. This is due in part to the increase in technology and how we obtain (and want to obtain) our information, our aging population and membership, the gap to Generation Y (Millennials) and later generations (Z and Alpha), polarization in our Country and world and the financial and social uncertainty that brings, the effects of Covid and post-Covid life and other tragedies (the Lahaina fires), the cost-benefit analysis of Generation Y and others regarding the cost (time and financial) of joining and investing in a membership organization ... the list goes on.

Our Branch has seen a drastic decrease in participation at all levels and throughout our programming. We are never short on ideas, but the woman-power to carry out these ideas is sometimes non-existent. We have had great difficulty organizing speaker meetings, and the turnout is low when we do. This is a trend seen Statewide; thus, some Hawaii branches have ended speaker meetings altogether. With information readily available on-demand 24/7 via online sources (podcasts, Ted talks) and social media, we no longer get our information from monthly in-person speakers. Speaker meetings have been replaced on other islands by invitation-only lunches focused on a target demographic – e.g., AAUW scholarship recipients and working women round tables, to build community and a next generation of AAUW supporters and testifiers.

We need to evolve with the times. Did you know we still have an interest group called “Needlework” in our branch policies?

Change is hard, and Pat and I have felt and heard the trepidation of some of our members to change. It is not lost on us that VP of Programs Shawna Pabingwit and I are the two youngest members holding the two top leadership positions in our Branch. For those who are nervous about change, you are not alone. AAUW Hawaii is actively grappling with these issues and recognizes that our branches can and should better coordinate. Our branches need to be healthy for a vibrant and effective AAUW Hawaii, which in turn will allow us to accomplish our goals of successfully addressing gender equity for women and girls in Hawaii.

Pat and I attended the May AAUW Hawaii Board meeting. Pat is the current AAUW Hawaii Treasurer and is running for Treasurer for the 2024-2025 year, and I am running for AAUW Hawaii Secretary. We are excited to report that the AAUW Hawaii Board approved a public policy in-person workshop on Oahu for August 2024 - "AAUW of Hawai'i Engaging Next Generation - Planning Workshop Proposal" for AAUW Hawaii's branch presidents, VPs, and public policy chairs. These AAUW leaders will meet to discuss priorities and ways to recruit and retain younger leaders, members, volunteers, and supporters to AAUW Hawaii branches and our State chapter by:

- Integrating public policy into branch programming; and
- Coordinating statewide common programming.

I propose that we take the next year to understand the mission of AAUW so that it will be natural for us to know where to go next. To do this, as a first step, I propose that our programming over the next year focus on understanding, supporting, and furthering the mission of AAUW – e.g. Title IX, mana wahine activism, the Hawaii legislative process, freedom from violence and the fear of violence, pay equity, etc. Here are AAUW National's public policy priorities:

<https://www.aauw.org/.../aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

We have the opportunity and, I feel, the **obligation** as the home of Patsy Mink, to be champions for Title IX, for equality for women and girls, and equal pay for working women. Did you know that AAUW is the primary community organization lobbying for equal pay in Hawaii? Thus, we must reclaim our obligation to Patsy Mink and her home island of Maui, to forward her mission and legacy. I visited the AAUW National headquarters last year, met AAUW President Gloria Blackwell, and saw in its lobby a signed photo and display of Patsy Mink.



Looking forward: Our board will flesh out our new course in our June planning meeting. Our executive board has on its agenda a meeting to revise our policies and bylaws (goodbye needlework!). I have arranged an exciting duo to speak about their lifetime of activism in Hawaii, followed by an opportunity not available to the general public. This is lined up for the first of our yearlong lecturer series, which is tentatively scheduled for the end of July.

Also, Save the Date 6/12/24, 6-7 pm, for this year's AAUW of Hawai'i Annual Meeting. Miyoko T. Pettit-Toledo, Assistant Professor of Law at William S. Richardson School of Law, will discuss "Two Years After Dobbs: The Future of Reproductive Justice in Hawai'i and Beyond." You will also get an update on the State budget, public policies, and State board elections. All are welcome, and you do not have to be a member to attend. This is a Zoom meeting.

Lastly, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you, our AAUW Maui Branch Members. Many of you are long-time members. I am very thankful for your support in my past and previous endeavors – when I agreed to be Co-President with Pat a year ago, I did not know I would be chosen and then confirmed as a University of Hawaii Regent. Many of you wrote letters of support to Governor Green and the Senate Higher Education Committee for me. In addition to my law practice and work as a per diem District Court Judge, I have limited time, but I look forward to sharing that time to forward our Branch on our new course.

I want to particularly thank two of my long-time mentors who embody intelligence, dedication to equity for women and girls, and personal grace - Pat Gotschalk and Jan Moore. They are the reason I am in AAUW Maui. Pat has been a good friend, mentor, advisor, proofreader, paralegal, and the female half of the “brain trust” (thanks Barry!). Jan has been a friend and mentor since I started teaching Business Law at UHMC in 2015. Jan would counsel me about difficult student situations and provide me with great advice and support.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead. Cheers!

“It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. But it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary.”

“We have to build things that we want to see accomplished, in life and in our country, based on our own personal experiences... to make sure that others ... do not have to suffer the same discrimination.”

- Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink, Congresswoman from Hawaii, the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress, and Maui High School Valedictorian 1944.

AAUW Hawaii State Annual Meeting, June 6, 2024

Save the Date! June 6, 2024, 6-7 pm for this year’s AAUW of Hawai‘i Annual Meeting! Miyoko T. Pettit-Toledo, Assistant Professor of Law at William S. Richardson School of Law, will discuss "Two Years After Dobbs: The Future of Reproductive Justice in Hawai‘i and Beyond." You will also get an update on the State budget, public policies, and State board elections. All are welcome, and you do not have to be a member to attend. This is a Zoom meeting that will require a passcode.

To RSVP visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqceCvrjwvHdeCuNewBmJZ1ruQe1vdlBTd#/registration>

Welcome!

To New Members

Roya Deyhim, Esq.



Roya Deyhim is a private practice attorney in Kihei. Roya has a passion for helping people and their pets in the area of estate planning. After practicing as a litigator in California and running the Maui branch of an Oahu firm, she founded the Law Office of Roya Deyhim, LLC in 2012. The office provides client services in estate planning, trust administration, and probate.

A graduate of California State University-Northridge and Southwestern University School of Law, Roya is an active member of the community. She is involved with many non-profits including as past president of the Rotary Club of Kihei-Wailea, past treasurer of the Maui County Bar Association, and former board member of Imua Family Services and Maui Pops Orchestra. Roya is a returning AAUW Maui Branch member.

Jayson Watts



Jayson Watts is the Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Mahi Pono, LLC, a Maui farming company focused on addressing Hawaii’s food security issues and developing high-quality produce to enhance Hawaii’s economy. With over 400 employees, the company is transforming 41,000 acres of vacant former sugar cane land into a thriving, diversified agriculture hub in Maui’s central plain.

A graduate of Baldwin High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Watts has a history of building sustainable community development initiatives and public-private partnerships.

Before joining Mahi Pono in 2019, the Wailuku resident served as special assistant to the Director of the Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and as senior advisor to two Hawaii Lieutenant Governors. Prior to that, Watts served as the assistant sergeant at arms of the Hawaii State Senate, as Legislative Director to the Senate Majority Caucus Leader, and as a congressional intern and later staff assistant to the late U.S. Representative Patsy T. Mink.

In 2022, Watts was appointed by Hawaii’s Governor and confirmed by the Senate to the Board of Directors of the State’s Agribusiness Development Corporation and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Maui County Farm Bureau, Hawaii Food Industry Association, University of Hawaii Alumni Association, as a U.S. Secretary of Commerce appointee to the Hawaii Pacific Export Council. Most recently, Watts was appointed by Alaska Airlines to its Inaugural Hawaii Community Advisory Board to assist with community input on business operations and its \$1.9B merger with Hawaiian Airlines.

Membership Renewals

It is that time of the year again to renew your membership. Dues have not increased, so the total amount due is \$100 -- \$18 for the branch, \$10 for the state, and \$72 for national.

There are the options to renew:

1. If you have a profile on AAUW.org (or if you create a profile), there will be a “renew membership” button when you log in. If you do not see this, it means that your membership is not due yet for renewal based on when you first joined AAUW.

2. If you would prefer for Jan Moore, our finance officer, to renew your membership, please mail a check for \$100 to AAUW Maui Branch, P.O. Box 1352, Pu'unene, HI 96784. The check should be made payable to AAUW Maui.
3. Fyi, we also accept Venmo or Paypal. If you choose to pay using either of these please email Jan at moorejan3@gmail.com to give her the heads up.
paypal.me/aauwmauibranch953 (Paypal) @AAUWMaui (Venmo)

Book Club, Lunch Bunch, and Happy Hour

The Zoom AAUW Book Club, hosted by Dorothy Tolliver, will continue during the summer the first Saturday of the month at 10:00a.m. For more information, email Dorothy at 2425047@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch will be held on the third Saturday of the month in June, July, and August. We will email with more information.

Happy Hour will be on hiatus during the summer and will start up again in September.

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through
advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

*In principle and practice, AAUW values and
seeks a diverse membership.*

*There shall be no barriers to full participation
on the basis of gender, race, creed, age,
sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.*

AAUW Maui Branch:
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Online Donations:
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AAUW National Website: <https://www.aauw.org/>