

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

Type of Grant Request:

Operating Capital

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual: Db: Db:
Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc. Nisei Veterans Legacy

Amount of State Funds Requested: \$ 90,000.00

Brief Description of Request (Please attach word document to back of page if extra space is needed):
The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy is to preserve and promulgate the story of the Nisei soldiers of World War II, both during and after the war. We are the primary legacy organization that promotes the history and contributions of all four Nisei Army units on a state-wide basis. We do this through educational programs involving exhibits, presentations, print media, television, social media and a website. This request if granted will further the continuation of our education efforts through direct and indirect support to our mission.

Amount of Other Funds Available:

State: \$ 0
Federal: \$ 0
County: \$ 0
Private/Other: \$ 50,000 (projected)

Total amount of State Grants Received in the Past 5 Fiscal Years:

\$ 381,000.000

Unrestricted Assets:

\$ 68,665.00

New Service (Presently Does Not Exist): Existing Service (Presently in Operation):

Type of Business Entity:

501(C)(3) Non Profit Corporation
 Other Non Profit
 Other

Mailing Address:

2454 South Beretania, Suite 302

City: State: Zip:
Honolulu HI 96826

Contact Person for Matters Involving this Application

Name:
Byrnes Yamashita

Email:
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Title:
Vice President

Phone:
(808) 728-9900

Federal Tax ID#:
[REDACTED]

State Tax ID#
[REDACTED]

Byrnes Yamashita
Authorized Signature

Byrnes Yamashita, Vice President
Name and Title

1/18/2022
Date Signed

Application Submittal Checklist

The following items are required for submittal of the grant application. Please verify and check off that the items have been included in the application packet.

- 1) Certificate of Good Standing (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
 - a) Budget request by source of funds
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles
 - d) Capital project details
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

BYRNES YAMASHITA, VICE PRESIDENT
PRINT NAME AND TITLE

1/18/2022
DATE

Application for Grants

If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Certificate of Good Standing (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a certificate of good standing from the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2021. (See Attachment A)

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes. (See Attachment B)

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) embodies the idea that the incredible stories of sacrifices and acts of heroism and patriotism demonstrated by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) during the course of World War II (WWII) as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society, need to be preserved, protected and promoted by and for the next generations.

We hope that our promotion of community awareness of the values of good citizenship, such as loyalty, gratitude, humility and racial equity exemplified by the Nisei veterans, will lead to a greater sense of civic responsibility among these generations.

We believe these tenets comprise a public purpose in accordance with Section 42F-102, HRS.

II. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Please include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc. (dba Nisei Veterans Legacy) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2012. Our membership primarily consists of descendants of the Nisei (second-generation AJA) soldiers of WWII, who were initially discriminated against and declared "enemy aliens" and prohibited from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Once allowed to serve in segregated all-Japanese American units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) went on to become the most highly decorated unit in American military history for its size and length of service. The men of the Military Intelligence Service are credited with shortening the Pacific war and saving many American lives by translating captured Japanese information that provided the U.S. forces superior intelligence on the enemy's plans.

Upon returning from the war, the Nisei veterans were determined to change the social, economic, and political environment of Hawaii to become a more democratic and fair society. Young people growing up in Hawaii today owe much to their hard work and sacrifices.

Our mission is to preserve and promulgate the history and story of the Nisei soldiers with the general public to promote good citizenship. We are the only such educational organization in Hawaii that promotes the stories and legacy of all the Nisei Army units of WWII on a state-wide basis. We believe that all of the men who served their country during the war to prove their loyalty as Americans deserve to be remembered for their service and sacrifice.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;

We are committed to ensuring that future generations learn about Hawaii's Nisei soldiers who served gallantly during WWII in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT, the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion.

We strive to share their remarkable life stories, from plantation villages to military service, and how they were a driving force behind Statehood, the pursuit of redress for the mass incarceration of the Japanese community during WWII and the re-shaping of our islands into the vibrant state it is today. Our primary audiences are the younger generations of Hawaii, and Japanese visitors and students. However, through our website and exhibits we also intend to reach national and global audiences.

Through these activities, we hope to educate and motivate young people to become active participants in society and to carry on the struggle for social equity and racial justice.

These are our aspirations.

3. The public purpose and need to be served;

We believe that the stories of the incredible sacrifices made by the AJA during WWII as well as their significant contributions to our post-war society need to be preserved and promoted, especially here in Hawaii. We hope that a greater sense of civic responsibility will transpire by promoting community awareness of the values of good citizenship exemplified by the Nisei soldiers.

As the Nisei generation passes on, it is increasingly important that its history and stories be kept alive for future generations of young people in Hawaii and the world.

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

The NVL, through our traveling exhibits had initially been targeting Hawaii residents for our educational programs. Our target audience is the general public but with a special focus on the younger generations so that they can appreciate the rights and freedoms that were attained by the hard work and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers.

We expanded our outreach through a significant investment in a permanent airport exhibit located inside the Interisland Terminal of the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The expansive historical exhibit documents the wartime and post war contributions of the Nisei veterans through text, photographs, and artifacts.

Airport officials estimate that pre-COVID, as many as 3 million travelers per year walked through the area where our exhibit is located and this is one of the main reasons the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Airports Division, partnered with the NVL on this effort.

We also installed a kiosk exhibit on the Nisei Army units of WWII in Japanese near the Japan Air Lines gates. We accomplished this with support from local Japanese-owned businesses and the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu.

Therefore, many Japanese visitors as well as local residents are exposed to the history and legacy of the Nisei soldiers.

We are also continuing to improve and develop our interactive website to allow even greater access to the tremendous stories of sacrifice of our Nisei veterans. The website has made it possible for users world-wide to access the information about the history of the Nisei soldiers. We have added Japanese translation to the website content to make the information available to the Japanese audience. We believe that this will contribute to increased tourism and interactions between Japanese visitors and the local community.

Since December 2016 when President Obama and Prime Minister Abe held the Joint Statement Ceremony at Pearl Harbor, Japanese visitation to Pearl Harbor had steadily risen until the COVID pandemic shut down the Japanese visitor industry. Prior to 2020, we had made numerous presentations to Japanese students coming to Hawaii for

educational and cultural exchange. We have pivoted to online presentations to keep the interest alive until the tourist and student visits can resume.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

While our initial efforts targeted geographic locations primarily within the State of Hawaii with traveling exhibits on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai, we have been expanding our geographic outreach. In 2017 and 2018, we displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit in over 10 cities throughout Japan.

The exhibit tour focused on those Japanese prefectures that sent the majority of immigrants to Hawaii known as the Kanyaku Imin, or contractor immigrants.

Through this experience, we learned about the high level of interest in the Nisei soldier story among the Japanese and are working to increase their awareness of this important piece of Hawaii's history. To make the information more accessible to the general Japanese public we have included Japanese translations of our historical information on our website and are continuing to deepen our relationships with Japan oriented entities such as the Japanese Consulate of Hawaii, and Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ).

We also work with other Nisei veterans' organizations across the country on collaborations for educational functions like development of high school curriculum and gathering exhibit materials for the new National Museum of the U.S. Army. Thus, we strive to serve as a state-wide clearinghouse for national efforts to preserve the Nisei soldier legacy.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;
 - a. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations, videos, social media such as Instagram and our website.

In 2018 and 2019, the NVL displayed the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit (HNLE) in several locations around the State as part of the Gannenmono commemoration, see details at Section V. Experience and Capability. The HNLE is a 26-panel photographic traveling exhibit that features the Nisei soldier story and includes information on their post war contributions, as well as the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii. We partnered with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to identify venues, publicize the showing, and do set-up and take down of the exhibit.

Guided tours are also offered to the public interested in learning more details about the Nisei soldiers.

On Oahu, we had successful showings at the Waimalu Shopping Center and the Pearl City and Kaimuki Public Libraries in 2019. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, several large venues such as the Honolulu Festival were cancelled.

- b. Once COVID restrictions are eased, we will be continuing our educational outreach presentations to local students, visiting Japanese students and various community and military organizations. Details of presentations over the past few years are listed at Section V. Experience and Capability. In the meantime, we have turned our efforts to the production of videos, advertising and writing articles to help continue the educational effort.
- c. In 2020 and 2021 we completed the following additions to the NVL website:
 - Provided more Japanese language translated webpages that are focused on historical information. We have found that there is a large interest in Japan regarding Hawaii and its citizens of Japanese ancestry. Providing more of our webpages in the Japanese language will continue to promote goodwill and cross-cultural exchanges between Japan and the United States.
 - We worked in collaboration with the Scholarship program of the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT to create Event Stories for the AJA Historical Timeline Events and added them to our website. We also worked with the 100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Organization to include more stories.
 - Completed the "522 Story" video about the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) and its rescue of Jewish prisoners at the end of WWII and make it available on our website. The video is targeted at middle school-aged children and their teachers and parents. It describes the formation of the all-Nisei 442nd RCT and the special achievements of the 522nd FAB.
 - Added a video on the story of an Italian American soldier, Nicholas Iosue who was mistakenly put in the 442nd RCT field hospital and refused to be moved to a Caucasian hospital when offered the chance. He developed a lifelong friendship with the Nisei soldiers he was in the hospital with.
- d. Our major event is an annual memorial service to honor the Nisei soldiers, currently referred to as the Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service.

The service is held every year on the last Sunday of September. This date symbolizes the sacrifices made by the Nisei soldiers during World War II. Sergeant Shigeo "Joe" Takata was the first Nisei soldier killed in action on September 29, 1943 in Italy. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in

combat. More details on the service are provided at Section V. Experience and Capability.

- e. Special Events - In 2019, we helped sponsor a special education event in conjunction with the MIS Veterans Education Society of Hawaii that featured a dramatic presentation on the experience of people during WWII along with a presentation by author Tom Coffman on the contributions of the Nisei soldiers. Over 100 people attended the event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.

In 2020, we had anticipated sponsoring or co-hosting other special education events for the general public and possibly school or military groups. These were cancelled due to COVID restrictions on public gatherings.

- f. Scholarship Program - The NVL is working with the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT on a scholarship program to promote the achievements and values of the Nisei soldiers. We have contributed a grant of \$2,500 for this purpose.
- g. National History Day – Each Spring, students around the State and Nation develop projects that reflect each year’s designated values or achievements in history. On an ongoing basis, the NVL assists students with reference information and arranging interviews with Nisei soldiers.
- h. Communications Plan - In 2021, we completed a communications plan that identified our core product and status in the community, targeted affinity groups, and defined promotional goals and measurements.

As part of this communications plan, we sponsor ads and PSAs in the press like the Honolulu Star Advertiser and Hawaii Herald. We have also sponsored ads in local television programs to reach the broader public.

We issue a semi-annual newsletter called “NVL News” and augment it with an electronic version called “Ganbari” that is shorter.

We use television media to help spread the story of the Nisei soldiers. In 2018, the HNLE tour in Japan was featured in a piece by Japanese station NHK World which was aired in 150 countries.

In 2020, as part of the events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we participated in a special KITV program featuring several stories about the war and its impacts on Hawaii.

In 2021, President Lynn Heirakuji was interviewed in a History Channel special on the Nisei soldiers that was aired nationally.

In 2022, we plan to prepare a communications implementation plan or roadmap to further expand and broaden our communications outreach.

- i. **Operating Expenses:** Beginning in March 2019, the NVL entered into a lease with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to rent 226 sf of office space. Prior to this lease, the NVL was using no-cost office space at One Kalakaua Senior Living and a State office to hold meetings. The NVL also used the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse for meetings but for a small fee. Current NVL costs include rent as well as office equipment and supplies acquisition and maintenance.

Pre-COVID, the office was used by the NVL for board and event meetings. We also allowed other Nisei veterans organizations to use it for free. During COVID, we have pivoted to online meetings, but have still used the office for small group events like interviews and video recording where social distancing could be maintained. We have recently renewed the lease with the JCCH in spite of the reduced utilization because we want to support them during this period when they have lost their primary source of revenue.

Other operating expenses include accounting support provided by a CPA and accounting assistant to maintain financial reports for tax filing, budget execution and reporting purposes. All other operations and work produced by the NVL is by volunteer support.

- j. **Summary of request for fiscal year 2023:**

- Communications Plan Implementation	\$25,000
- Operating Costs: Office rental, accounting support	\$15,000
- Memorial Service and Video	\$15,000
- Education Programs/Website Improvements	\$35,000
Total	<u>\$90,000</u>

2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

Our travelling exhibits and in-person presentations are on hiatus during the COVID pandemic restrictions but we hope to resume them as conditions permit. We have ongoing projects to update and refresh the educational material and current event information on our website that are in progress throughout the year.

New video programs are in progress. Besides the memorial service video, we are working on a video highlighting the post-war accomplishments of the Nisei veterans and a series of short videos highlighting historic sites on Oahu and their linkage to the Nisei soldiers. Examples include the Brothers in Valor monument and U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii in Waikiki, the Killed in Action Memorial in Kaneohe, the Keehi Lagoon Memorial, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. On-site video recording has been suspended during the recent COVID case increase but we plan to resume in 2022 as conditions permit.

Updates to the website design and content are made on an ongoing basis. For example, as videos are completed, they are hosted on the NVL YouTube channel and website for viewing. News events are also updated as they occur.

We are currently supporting newspaper writer Jayna Omaye's "Nisei Impact Youth Program", a special class in journalism for high school students that features research on the Nisei soldiers in writing their articles. We offer the students background information on the Nisei soldiers and offer veterans as interview subjects. The project will be completed in early 2022.

The annual memorial service is held in the last week of September each year. The resulting video is planned to be completed for airing by Veterans Day.

3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results; and

As a primarily educational organization, the NVL is in a constant state of quality assurance and self-evaluation. We believe that in order to have credibility our website, presentations and exhibits require accuracy and appropriate reference citations.

We collaborate with other legacy organizations such as Densho in Seattle and the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles to develop applicable standards of reference citation to enable researchers to use information and data provided on our website.

We have utilized a collaborative approach to create the HNLE, which has toured extensively in Japan and Hawaii to wide acclaim. We teamed with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and received sponsor support from Hawaii Tourism Japan. This project demonstrates our ability to work with other organizations to achieve a common goal.

We also encourage feedback from the public and users of our information on how we can improve the quality of our offerings as well as ease of access. While touring the HNLE around the State, we offered feedback forms produced in conjunction with the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu to obtain inputs from the public as well as any questions for additional follow-up.

Questions and inquiries from our website are referred to the proper NVL individual for response. Any critiques or suggestion for improvement are incorporated in the website improvement plan.

In 2021, we conducted an internal organizational assessment using metrics developed by a national non-profit support organization. This feedback assessment identified the progress in organizational improvements that we had made towards national standards and identified areas that we need to continue to focus on.

We conduct presentations to our NVL Advisors group every six months during which we solicit feedback and guidance on our accomplishments and objectives. We also incorporate recommendations into our plans moving forward.

4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

We have instituted a survey feedback tool at our traveling exhibits which will allow us to better monitor how that portion of our activities are progressing. A summary of sample comments can be included in our progress reports. We can also provide visitor estimates to help assess the popularity of the exhibits.

We are also currently exploring ways in which we can more effectively track the number of interactions occurring at our newly opened permanent exhibit at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Interisland Terminal.

We can also obtain feedback from venue exhibitors such as the public libraries on the feedback provided by their clients.

In 2018, we initiated an Instagram account through which we highlight significant events or historically significant dates in the Nisei soldier timeline. The number of subscribers can be used as a metric of the level of interest in our information.

All website visits and interactions are recorded and we are able to accurately track the number of visits to our website. We believe this data will be extremely helpful in determining where we should extend outreach efforts. These data can be reported to the expending agency.

We have a question and answer feature on our website through which we provide information to students seeking research information as well as Nisei soldier descendants looking for information about their father's or grandfather's experiences.

As each new capability or section of the website is completed, it is entered on a Beta Testing site for our collaboration team to review and comment. Once all initial comments are received, changes are incorporated then put on the live website.

One of our major website efforts includes expanding the Japanese translations. These translations are made locally, then sent to the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama for review of the language and factual content. This is an arduous but necessary process since the translation process from English to Japanese is so difficult.

We have received feedback from several Japanese that have visited our website that our translations are easy to understand and correct grammatically.

As mentioned earlier, the NVL prepares semi-annual newsletters outlining our achievements during the year. Our reports to the expending agency can include these newsletters which provide an overview of our educational and collaboration activities. A copy of the latest newsletter is attached.

IV. Financial

Budget

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
 - a. Budget request by source of funds (attached)
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages (not applicable)
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles (not applicable)
 - d. Capital project details (not applicable)
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid (attached)

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2023.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$20,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$90,000

The NVL has scaled back its GIA application request this year in view of the current economic impacts being experienced by the State due to the COVID pandemic. Like many other non-profit organizations, we are tightening our belt and looking for ways to best use our resources through collaboration and cooperation with other like organizations.

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2023.

We typically solicit donations from the general public and associated Japanese and AJA organizations throughout the year along with fundraising activities through events and via the website. In addition, we plan to apply for grants from various foundations such as the Kosasa Family Foundation and the Atherton Family Foundation.

We also conduct annual fundraising efforts such as virtual events or programs like Foodland's Give Aloha campaign. All NVL board members are expected to support the program financially.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.

The NVL has neither applied for nor does it intend to apply for any tax credits.

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2023 for program funding.

In 2019, the NVL applied for a grant of \$150,000 from the State Grant-in-Aid Program and was appropriated \$131,000. We are not planning to apply for any other government grants or grants-in-aid for fiscal year 2023 besides the State Grant-in-Aid program.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2021.

The balance of our unrestricted account as of December 31, 2021 was \$68,665.

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

- a. In addition to this leadership group, the NVL has a cadre of dedicated volunteers who are primarily descendants of Nisei soldiers. The core group consists of individuals with backgrounds in engineering, law, government service and education. We also have younger generation supporters who work on individual events or projects on an ad hoc basis.
- b. The NVL conducts educational programs primarily via permanent and travelling exhibits, presentations and our website. We also conduct an annual memorial service to honor the Nisei soldiers.
- c. Additionally, the NVL has installed permanent exhibits at:
 - Central Pacific Bank, Downtown Branch, Honolulu, Hawaii (since removed)
 - Daniel K. Inouye International Airport - kiosk display on Nisei Army units in Japanese near the Japan Air Lines gates.

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

App Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	0			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	0			
3. Fringe Benefits	0			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	0			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island	0			800
2. Insurance	1,000			
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment	0			
4. Lease/Rental of Space	9,000			
5. Staff Training	0			
6. Supplies	0			200
7. Telecommunication	0			1,000
8. Utilities	1,000			
9. Tax Preparation/Accounting Support	4,000			
10. Presentations/Exhibitions	0			3,000
11. Nisei Soldier Memorial Service & Video	15,000			
12. Communications Plan/Execution	25,000			10,000
13. Education Programs/Website Improvs.	35,000			17,000
14. Fundraising				18,000
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	90,000			50,000
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	0			
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES	0			
E. CAPITAL	0			
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	90,000			50,000
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	90,000	Byrnes Yamashita (808) 728-9900		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested	0	Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	0	<i>Byrnes Yamashita</i> 1/18/2022		
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	50,000	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	140,000	Byrnes Yamashita, Vice President Name and Title (Please type or print)		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - PERSONNEL SALARIES AND WAGES

Period: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy, Inc.

POSITION TITLE	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	ANNUAL SALARY A	% OF TIME ALLOCATED TO GRANT REQUEST B	TOTAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED (A x B)
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL:				0.00
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: No personnel salary costs requested.				

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Period: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:				

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS: No equipment or motor vehicle costs requested.				

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, Inc.

Contracts Total: \$0.00

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1					
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- Daniel K. Inouye International Airport - Interisland Terminal - The “Hawaii Nisei Veterans” Exhibit. The materials and construction of this exhibit was funded by a State Legislature GIA. The design, planning and content installation were completed by volunteer labor from the Nisei soldier descendant community.

- d. In 2017 and 2018, the NVL partnered with Hawaii Tourism Japan (HTJ) to take the HNLE to several locations in Japan as part of its Aloha Program to promote Japanese tourism to Hawaii:
 - Yokohama: June 24 – September 5, 2017
 - Tokyo: July 15-17, 2017
 - Fukushima: July 21 – 28, 2017
 - Hiroshima, October 1-14, 2017
 - Usa: September 7-18, 2017
 - Nagoya: May 25 -27, 2018
 - Hiroshima: June 16, 2018
 - Osaka: July 4 - 9, 2018
 - Nagaoka: July 7 -20, 2018
 - Fukuoka: August 16-19, 2018
 - Sapporo: September 1-2, 2018
 - Okinawa: October 2-14, 2018
 - Kumamoto: October 20 – November 25, 2018

We estimated that over 50,000 visitors saw the exhibit at these locations. In addition, several presentations were made to interested audiences on the history and culture of Hawaii AJA.



Opening Ceremony Participants, Hiroshima, November 2017.

In 2018, the HNLE toured the State of Hawaii as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii, known as the Gannenmono. The tour was a partnership between the NVL and the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu.

- Honolulu Festival: March 9 - 11, 2018
- Honolulu Hale: March 27 – April 18, 2018
- Queen Kaahumanu Center, Wailuku: April 26 – May 10, 2018
- Kahala Mall: June 16 – July 1, 2018
- University of Hawaii West Oahu: August 20 – 31, 2018
- Kuhio Grove Center, Lihue: September 7 – 23, 2018
- Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, Kona: November 1 – 28, 2018
- Hawaii Japanese Center, Hilo: December 1 -21, 2018



Hawaii High School Students at Honolulu Festival, March 2018.

In 2019, the HNLE was displayed at the following locations:

- January 14-18: Punahou School Cooke Learning Commons
- February 4-14: Sendai City Hall, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan
- March 8-10: Honolulu Festival, Hawaii State Convention Center
- May 24 - June 3: Waimalu Shopping Center
- June 25: First State Veterans Summit
- July 14 – August 31: Pearl City Public Library
- October 1-31: Kaimuki Public Library



Guided tour at Pearl City Public Library, August 2019.

Largely due to these efforts regarding the HNLE, the NVL received the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Spirit of Aloha award in June 2018 and the Consul General of Japan's Commendation Award in November 2018.



JCCH Spirit of Aloha Awardees, June 2018. NVL Former President Wes Deguchi on the left.



Consul General of Japan Commendation Awardees, November 2018. NVL Former President Wes Deguchi and current Vice President Byrnes Yamashita, (second row, far left).

- e. Nisei Soldier Memorial Service (JMS) - The NVL has been the primary sponsor for the annual Nisei Soldier Memorial Service which serves to honor the Nisei Soldiers of WWII for the past 8 years. The NVL has been successful in increasing the attendance of younger people at this annual ceremony prior to COVID.

Those attending represented various military organizations, veterans' groups, high school JROTC cadets and members of the general public.



Joint Memorial Service participants September 2019. Photo courtesy of iHiPhotography.

The Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service is the largest public ceremony in the State that honors the sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of WWII. As the members of our “greatest generation” pass away, it is imperative that this ceremony be kept alive to honor their memory and sacrifices for our younger generations to learn from their legacy.

The event is regularly attended by the Governor, Mayor of Honolulu, Commander USINDOPACCOM and numerous military and civilian leaders including the Consul General of Japan.

JROTC cadets from several Oahu high schools and Cub and Boy Scout troops participate in the program. They each receive a handout that explains the Nisei Army units and their contributions. Through this active participation and educational exposure, young Hawaii residents are exposed to the history and contributions of the Nisei soldiers to modern Hawaii.

The ceremony has been broadcast on O`lelo and highlighted on local news programs. It has the largest singular impact on keeping the Nisei soldier story alive for the local public.

In 2020 and 2021, the service was cancelled due to COVID restrictions on public gatherings. In lieu of the live event, the NVL produced two videos to commemorate the event and pay homage to the memory of the Nisei Soldiers.

The Memorial Service is the key annual event presented by the NVL and we look forward to return to live events when COVID restrictions allow them.

f. The NVL’s comprehensive website is being continually upgraded as content is prepared, (nvlchawaii.org). We believe that the continued development and upgrading of the website will have a significant impact on sharing the story of these tremendous Nisei citizens. The primary purpose of the website is to promote a wide-ranging awareness of the Nisei soldier legacy.

Among the recent developments in the NVL's website are the following projects:

- In 2021, the NVL completed a video project called the “The 522 Story”. This animated video tells the story of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd RCT, with the target audience being middle school-aged children. The animated video communicates the values that were core to the Nisei soldiers’ motivation and success in WWII combat. The project is available on the NVL website for teachers, parents and children nationwide for viewing on-line.
- AJA Historical Timeline - This section currently contains 148 historical events that are significant in AJA Hawaiian history and the Nisei soldiers of WWII. Each event will have an extended article that provides context, detail, and reference sources.
- Nisei Soldier Stories – This section provides 29 multimedia stories that combine the related events from the AJA Historical Timeline, with related photos and videos. Combined with the AJA Historical Timeline, these portions of the website provide an informational resource for teachers, parents and children nationwide.

- HNLE Exhibit – At the core of the exhibit is the story of the Nisei who served in the U.S. Army during WWII. The exhibit also describes the initial Japanese immigration to Hawaii and the Nisei soldiers' post-war accomplishments. These webpages are in both English and Japanese.
- g. Japanese Educational Outreach. Over the past several years, the NVL has made presentations to many Japanese organizations and groups about the history of Hawaii's Japanese community and the Nisei soldier story. These presentations have been both in Japan and in Hawaii.

In conjunction with the HNLE tour of Japan, numerous presentations were made to university students and the general public. Through these presentations, we learned that the Japanese people have a tremendous interest in Hawaii and the story of the Nisei soldiers.



Presentation at Nagaoka City Auditorium, July 2018.

According to the Japanese Consulate of Honolulu, pre-COVID over 10,000 Japanese middle, high school and university students visit Hawaii each year for educational and cultural exchanges. The NVL has made numerous presentations to some of these student groups including tours of facilities like the 100th Infantry Battalion clubhouse.



Presentation and tour to Japanese students from Fukushima, Japan, March 2018 at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse.

Additionally, the NVL supports researchers and students from Japan to find information on the Nisei soldiers including arranging interviews.



Japanese researcher Ms. Nao Fukuoka from Hiroshima, Japan (second from right) with interview subjects at the NVL office, November 2019.

During the COVID pandemic, we have continued to support these educational presentations to Japanese students via online services.

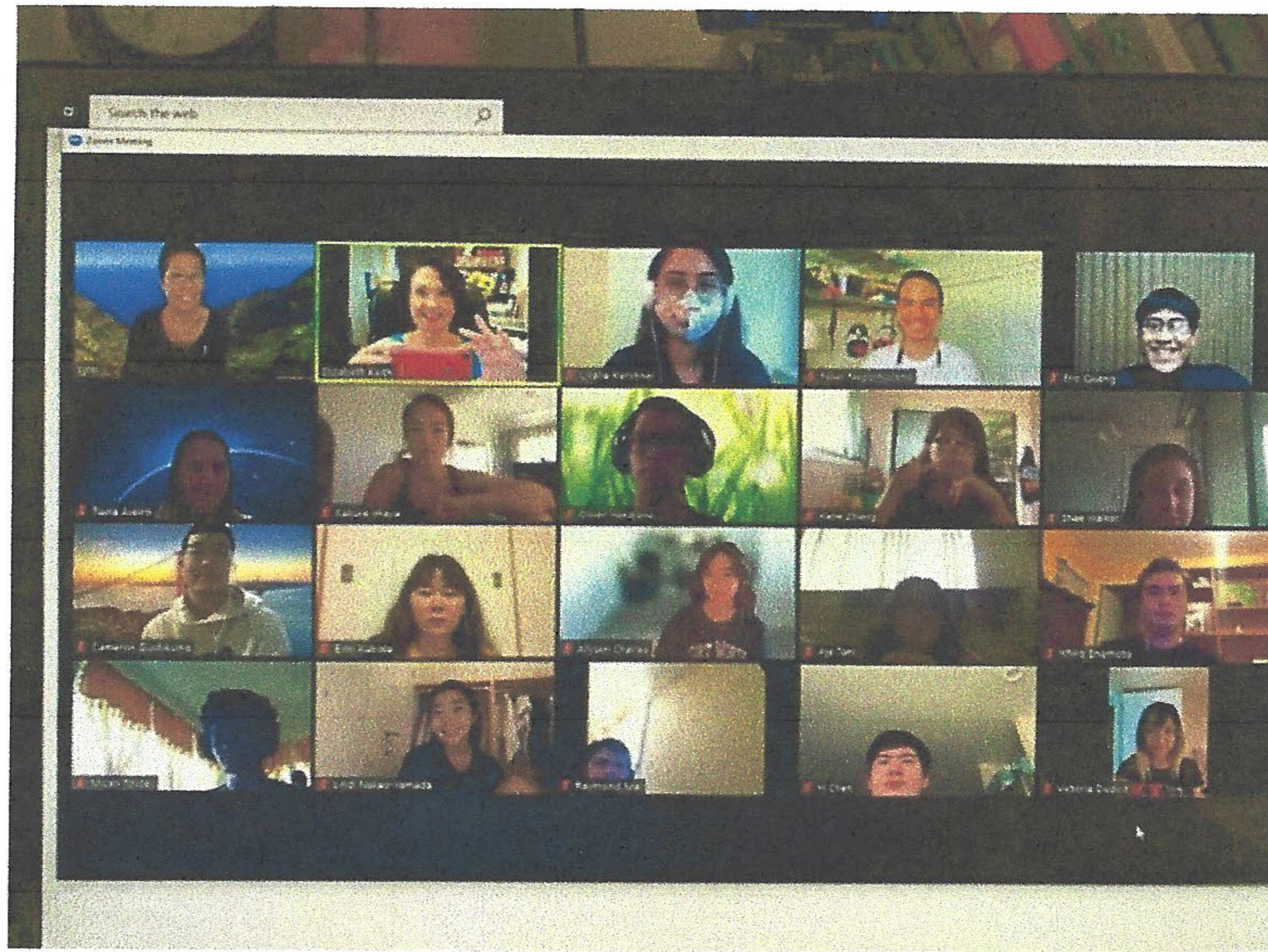


Vice President Byrnes Yamashita (first row, second from right) during presentation to Japanese students in Usa City, Oita Prefecture, Japan. Mililani Middle School students also participated (upper left).

h. Hawaii Community Educational Outreach. The NVL offers a speaker bureau to local schools and organizations to make presentations about the history and achievements of the Nisei soldiers. These have included the following:

- March 2018: Shufu Society of Hawaii
- May 2018: Scouts of Aloha Council
- June 2018: Society of Military Widows, Hawaii Chapter
- June 2018: U.S. Coast Guard District 14
- July 2018: 808 Hawaii Update Radio Talk Show
- November 2018: Downtown Honolulu Rotary Club
- November 2018: Hawaii Tokai International College
- December 2018: Rouren NHK Employees
- January 2019: Hawaii Tokai International College
- February 2019: Pearl City AARP Chapter
- May 2019: Pan-Pacific Leaders and Mentors (PPALM)
- June 2019: 9th Mission Support Command (U.S. Army)
- June 2019: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program
- November 2019: Kahala Nui Retirement Center
- November 2019: Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- February 2020: Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Corporation
- March 2020: Kaiser High School
- September 2020: University of Hawaii at Manoa Japanese Cultural Studies
- November 2020: Punahou School JROTC
- April 2021: Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter
- July 2021: Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- August 2021: Podcast, "Hanging out with Nolan Hong"
- September 2021: University of Hawaii at Manoa Japanese Cultural Studies

In early 2020, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, in-person presentations were greatly curtailed. The NVL pivoted to online presentations to maintain the educational outreach. We hope to resume in-person presentations when the COVID restrictions are relaxed or eliminated.



NVL President Lynn Heirakuji (upper left) during presentation to University of Hawaii at Manoa students online.

- i. **National Nisei Organization Coordination and Collaboration.** The NVL assists in coordinating amongst Nisei veterans' organizations both within the State of Hawaii as well as across the nation.

For example, in June 2018 NHK World Japan sponsored a showing of a documentary on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. NHK wanted to invite members of the Nisei veteran community but had no idea of how to contact them. The NVL reached out to the local Nisei veterans' organizations and put NHK World Japan in touch with each of the organizational Presidents. Through this coordination, over 400 people including over 15 Nisei veterans and their wives or widows, attended the showing at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

In August 2018, then Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited Hawaii and asked to meet with the various Nisei veterans organizations. The NVL coordinated with all the major units and hosted a meeting at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse. We also conducted a special tour of the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit for Mr. and Mrs. Kono at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.



Japan Foreign Minister Kono and Mrs. Kono at right, UH West Oahu, August 2018.

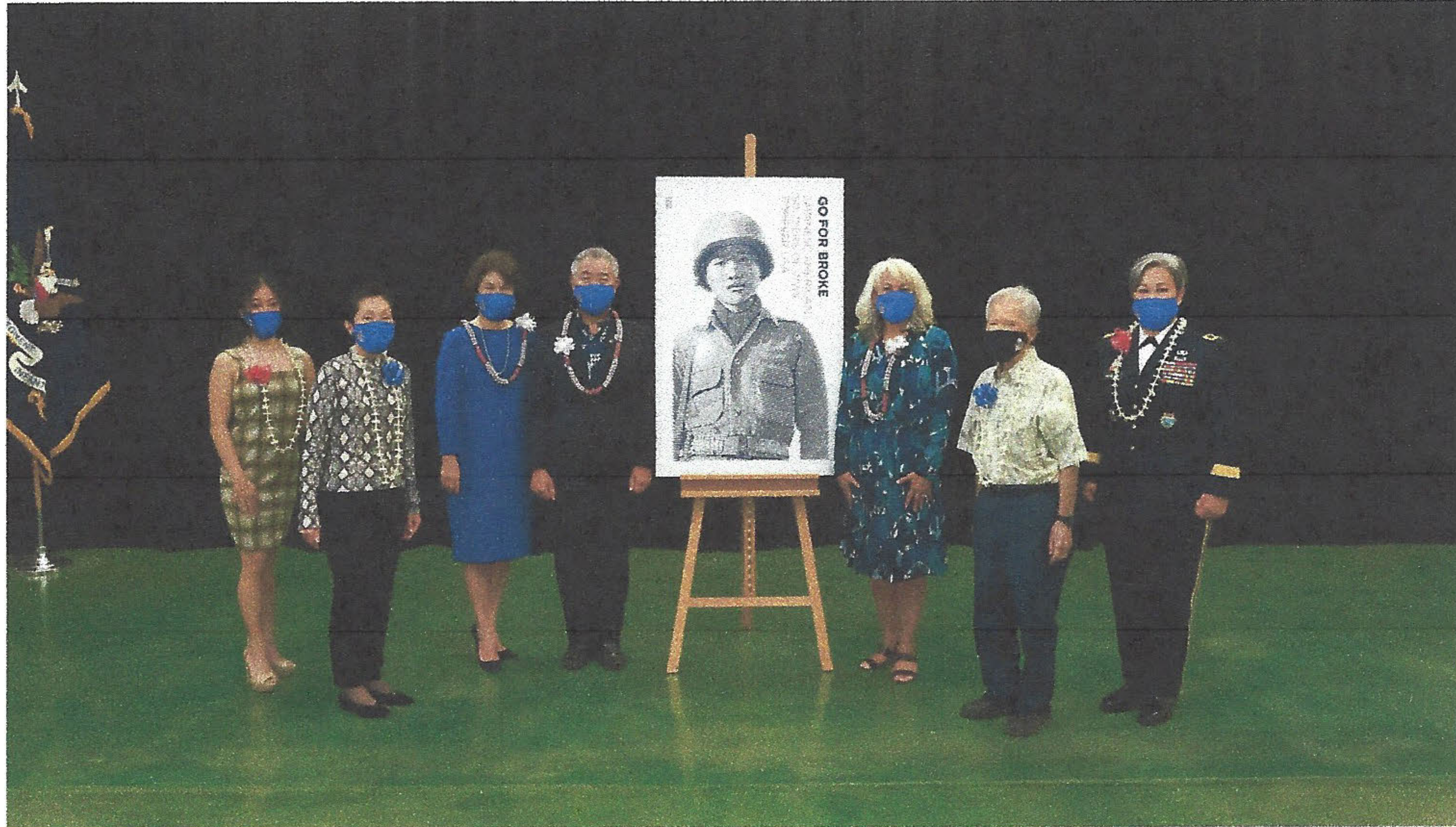
In 2018, the various Nisei organizations on Oahu began discussions and deliberations regarding cooperation amongst the various groups to honor the memories and contributions of the Nisei soldiers. The NVL was an active participant in those discussions and encourages further collaboration amongst the various organizations. We are currently in similar discussions with the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans group.

In 2019, the NVL among other organizations, was contacted by the Nisei Veterans Network in Washington, D.C. to assist with gathering stories and memorabilia of Nisei soldiers in Hawaii for inclusion in the National Museum of the U.S. Army. The NMUSA hosted a special event featuring the Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit in August 2021 in Ft Belvoir, Virginia.

In 2019, the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) headquartered in Los Angeles sent a video crew to Hawaii to record interviews and oral histories from Nisei soldiers. The NVL coordinated with the various Nisei organizations to set up the interview sessions that will be edited and then provided via the GFBNEC website for future generations of researchers.

In 2021, the GFBNEC in cooperation with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the NVL introduced a class curriculum in the Hawaii public schools on the Nisei Soldiers. The NVL donated funds to be used for stipends for public school teachers to take the training, offer the curriculum and provide feedback.

Also in 2021, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced the release of a Forever Stamp honoring the Japanese American Soldiers of WWII. Hawaii held its Go For Broke stamp unveiling event at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse on June 4, 2021. NVL President Lynn Heirakuji was the co-chair for the event and served as emcee for the ceremony which was live streamed with no live audience due to COVID restriction.



Go For Broke Stamp Unveiling Ceremony, June 2021.

2. Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

We are currently leasing a small (226 SF) office space at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This space provides a desk workspace and a small conference area for meetings. It has been used for conducting interviews with Japanese researchers and press along with recording oral history interviews of Nisei veterans.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

The work of the NVL is being performed strictly with the extensive use of volunteers and community organizations. We pay an accountant and accounting assistant to perform duties as needed.

We have various committees that supervise work in different functional areas as shown below:

Communications:	Chairperson Lynn Heirakuji
Education:	Chairperson Byrnes Yamashita
Membership:	Chairperson Phyllis Hironaka
By-Laws:	Chairperson Lawrence Enomoto
Philanthropy and Legacy Gift:	Chairperson Jennifer Okubo Polido
Website:	Interim Chairperson Lynn Heirakuji

The committee chairs have a broad range of professional experience and community service work that makes them very qualified to carry out their duties. These committees have permanent and/or ad hoc members that work on the different functions or projects as requirements evolve.

2. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

NVL Leadership:

President – Dr. Lynn Heirakuji

- Retired Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
- Board Member, Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Vice President – Byrnes Yamashita

- Retired, U.S. Navy Engineer
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT
- Member, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Member, Hawaii United Okinawa Association
- Member, Hawaii Aloha Life Enrichment Association

Treasurer – Kristen Alm Kamakahi

- Director of Staffing and Operations at Remedy Intelligent Staffing
- Past President and current director of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Former Co-Chair, Cherry Blossom Festival

Secretary – Phyllis Hironaka

- Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawaii
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT
- President, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion Chapter

Board Member – Lawrence Enomoto

- Past President, Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii
- Major (Retired) Enomoto served for 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and has a law degree from the University of Hawaii
- Actively involved with many veteran-related organizations.

Board Member – Dr. William Wright

- PhD in Computer Science and Operational Analysis
- Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel
- Former consultant to Microsoft and the Department of Homeland Security
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Board Member – Jennifer Okubo Polido

- Estate Planning lawyer
- Member, Honolulu Junior Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Volunteer, Project Dana

Board Member – Warren Yamamoto

- President, 100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Foundation
- Semi-retired civil engineer with over 40 years of professional engineering experience.

Board Member – Dr. Caitlin Shishido

- Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT

Advisor – Major General (Retired) Suzanne Vares-Lum

- President, East-West Center (first Native Hawaiian female President)
- 34 years, U.S. Army (first Native Hawaiian female general)
- Former Mobilization Assistant to the Commander U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- Board Member, American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region
- Former Advisor, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council

Advisor – Brigadier General (Retired) James Hirai

- Deputy Executive Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
- Retired U.S. Army general with over 30 years of command and leadership experience
- Former Director, Go For Broke National Education Center

Advisor – Warren Haruki

- President, Grove Farms, Inc.
- Former President, Hawaiian Telephone Co.
- Serves on several boards of directors

Advisor – Barbara Tanabe

- Former television news anchor
- President, Hoakea Communications
- University of Hawaii Distinguished Alumnus

Advisor – Gary Okuda

- Civil and Commercial Litigation lawyer
- Partner, Leu, Okuda and Doi
- Member, State Land Use Commission

Advisor – Wes Deguchi

- Former President, Nisei Veterans Legacy
- Member, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT (former President)
- Former Director, 442nd Regimental Combat Team Foundation
- President, AD2 International, Inc. Has over 40 years of experience as an architect

Advisor – Jacce Mikulanec

- Director Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems
- Former President/Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy has no current salary commitments.

VII. Other

1. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

Not applicable.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that the applicant possesses relevant to this request.

Not applicable.

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#) for the relevance of this question.

No portion of this grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2022-23 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2022-23, but
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

Pre-COVID, The NVL typically received between \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually from various organizations that support the organization's legacy efforts or Japanese tourism.

For example, in 2018 and 2019 the Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association donated \$1,000 from the proceeds of its annual charity golf tournament. Also in 2019, Hawaii Tourism Japan donated \$2,500 from the proceeds of its Aloha Program educational program where Japanese learn about Hawaii history and culture.

When the COVID pandemic began in 2020 and the State Grant-in-Aid program was suspended, we took two major actions: 1) we requested an extension of our FY 2019-2020 GIA grant until June 2021, and 2) we adjusted our budget execution in order to stretch our funds over the two-year period.

In 2020 and 2021, we applied to several foundations for funding support and received grants from the following:

- Bank of Hawaii Foundation (\$7,500)
- Kosasa Family Foundation (\$45,000)

- Atherton Family Foundation (\$10,000)
- CPB Foundation (\$10,000)

In 2021, we also received an unsolicited donation from the Iosue Family of Chicago (\$15,000).

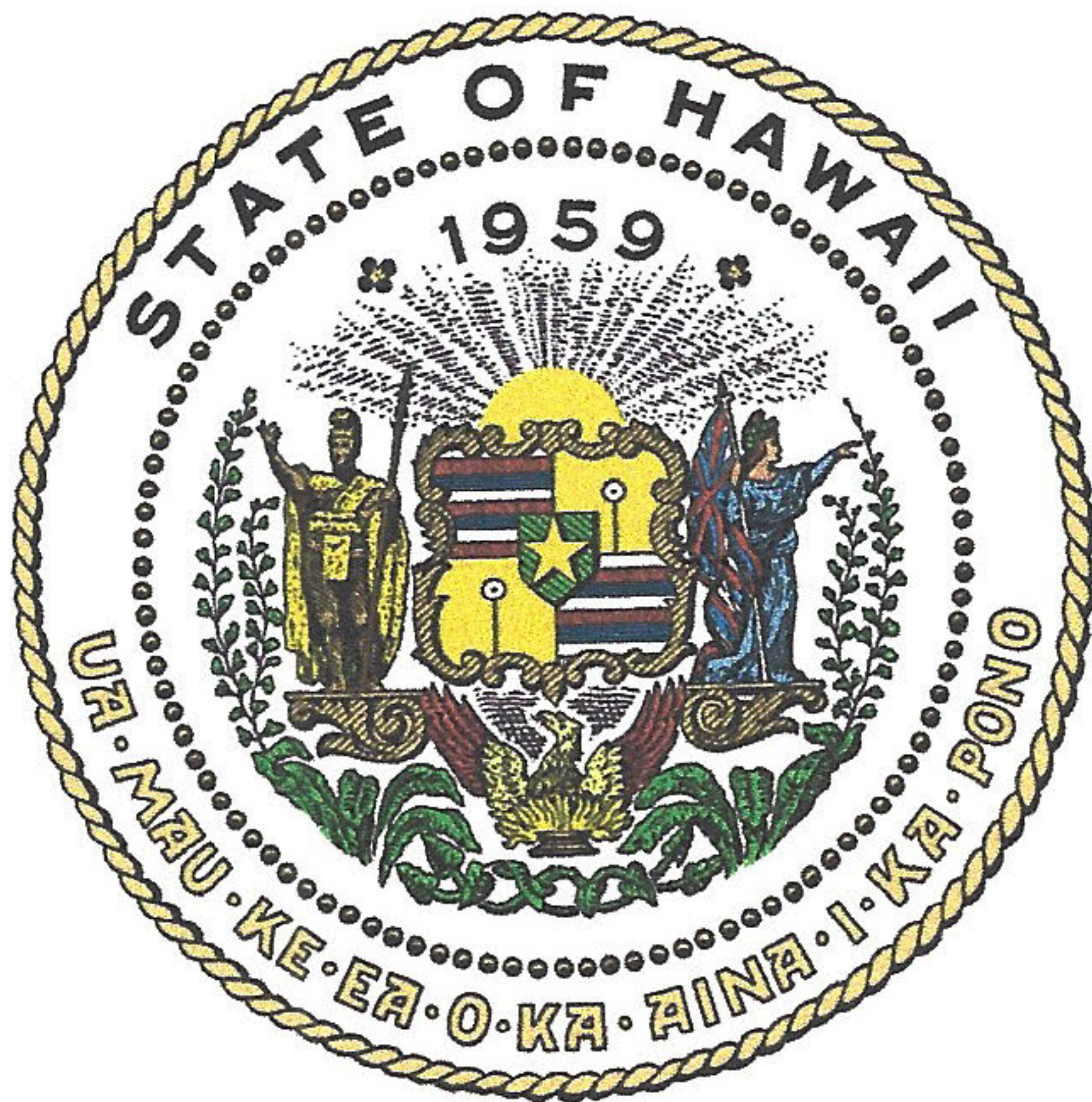
These grants and donations allowed us to continue our normal educational activities and supported our operating expenses.

Additionally, our fundraising drives such as annual dinner banquet and special guest presentations are expected to raise between \$25,000 to \$50,000 each year. In 2021, we conducted a virtual fundraiser event which raised approximately \$40,000. These unrestricted funds allow us to cover our operational expenses for our office space and printed materials.

In addition to the facility costs for our small office, we also use the services of a CPA and an accounting assistant to prepare our financial records and reports for tax and reporting purposes.

If we were able to use GIA funds to help offset our administrative expenses, we could generate more educational projects in support of our mission.

If not funded beyond fiscal year 2022-23 we will have to increase our fundraising efforts and may resort to options like crowdfunding in order to sustain our activities. One proposal is to create a donation page in Japanese to tap funding support from Japan based on our past and ongoing educational activities.



Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

I, the undersigned Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that

NISEI VETERANS LEGACY CENTER, INC.

was incorporated under the laws of Hawaii on 02/24/2012 ; that it is an existing nonprofit corporation; and that, as far as the records of this Department reveal, has complied with all of the provisions of the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act, regulating domestic nonprofit corporations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, at Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dated: January 02, 2022

Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs


**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided.
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

<u>Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dba Nisei Veterans Legacy</u>	
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)	
<u></u>	<u>1/15/2022</u>
(Signature)	(Date)
<u>Byrnes Yamashita</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
(Typed Name)	(Title)

Hawaii's Unveiling of the "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII Stamp"

MISSION

Preserve, perpetuate and share the legacy of the Nisei Soldiers to promote good citizenship.

VISION

A community in which we live by the universal values of honor, gratitude and patriotism upheld by America's Nisei Soldiers.

LEADERSHIP

Officers:

Lynn Heirakuji
PRESIDENT

Byrnes Yamashita
VICE PRESIDENT

Larry Enomoto
TREASURER

Phyllis Hironaka
SECRETARY

Directors:

Larry Enomoto

Lynn Heirakuji

Phyllis Hironaka

Kristin Alm Kamakahi*

Jennifer Okubo Polido*

Warren Yamamoto

Byrnes Yamashita

Bill Wright

Advisors:

Wesley Deguchi

Warren Haruki

James Hirai

Jacce Mikulanec

Gary Okuda

Barbara Tanabe

Suzanne Vares-Lum

* Interim



For 15 years, three amazing Nisei women, all of whom were incarcerated during WWII – Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King, and the late Chiz Ohira – worked tirelessly with Wayne Osako, a California sansei history teacher, toward the creation of this historic U.S. stamp honoring the Nisei Soldiers. Together they launched the "Stamp Our Story" grassroots campaign which successfully garnered both national and international support for the stamp. This is the first U.S. Postal Service (USPS) stamp to feature the image of an Asian-American soldier. The stamp's image was based on a photograph of a Hawaii Island-born 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) Nisei Soldier, Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto.

The USPS held a virtual dedication ceremony on June 3, 2021, the First-Day-of-Issue, from Los Angeles, California, the First-City-of-Issue. Many other regions including Oregon and Texas followed by holding their own memorable local ceremonies.

Hawaii held its stamp unveiling event on June 4, 2021, at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse in Honolulu. The Hawaii Stamp Organizing Committee which was comprised of local Nisei Veteran organizations planned the event which was live streamed with no audience due to COVID restrictions. NVL president Lynn Heirakuji served as event emcee and was the co-chairperson for the event along with Mae Isonaga of the Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT.

Kauai and Maui also held dedication events on that same day.

The "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Of WWII Stamp" calls attention to the historic sacrifices and achievements of the Nisei Soldiers of WWII. It also serves as a timely reminder of the need to remain vigilant in continuing to strive for equality and justice for everyone. To view the 30-minute Hawaii unveiling event and other related videos go to: <<https://videos.nvlchawaii.org/videos>>.



GFB Stamp unveiling event participants (l to r) Rachel Radona, Lynn Heirakuji, First Lady Dawn Ige, Governor David Ige, Eileen Veach, Dr. Shinye Gima, and MG (ret) Suzanne Vares-Lum.

Presentations

HONOLULU JAPANESE AMERICANS CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL)

The Honolulu JACL invited NVL's Lynn Heirakuji to attend its April 12, 2021 Board meeting and share what the NVL is doing to perpetuate the Nisei Soldier legacy and to seek ways to collaborate. In turn, the JACL leadership attended the NVL Board meeting on May 16, 2021 to discuss the mission and activities of the JACL. The JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, and opposing discrimination and intolerance remain its focus.

HONOLULU JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lynn was honored to share the virtual stage with Governor George Ariyoshi (MIS Veteran) on July 16, 2021 to discuss the war and post-war contributions of the Nisei Soldiers with members of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. The presentation highlighted the business accomplishments of the Nisei Soldiers, including their historic founding of Central Pacific Bank which was key to the economic recovery of the Japanese American community after the war.



Governor George Ariyoshi joined with NVL's Lynn Heirakuji to discuss the Nisei Soldier story with members of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce

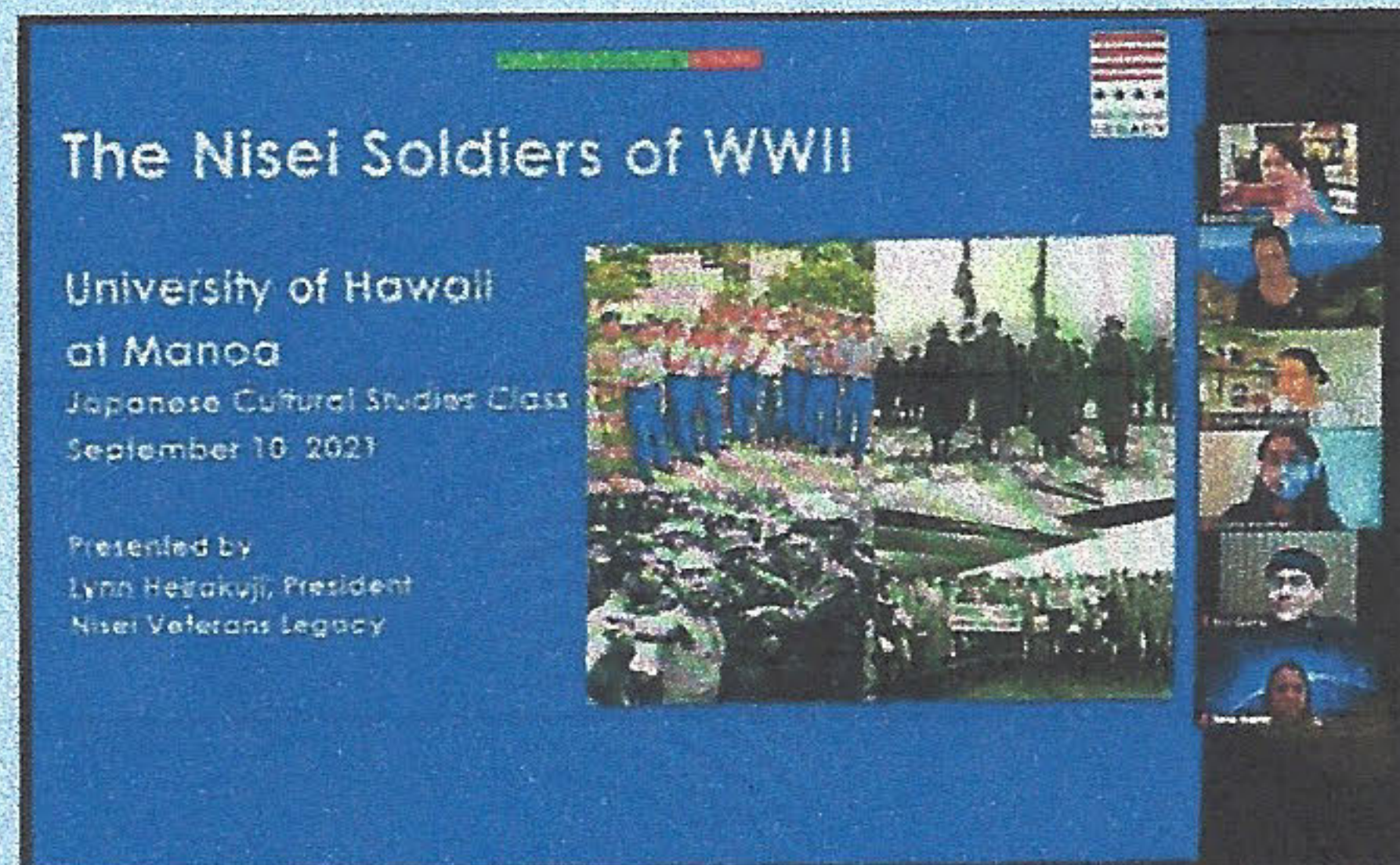
NVL's Byrnes Yamashita shared the Nisei Soldier story via Zoom with students in Japan and Mililani, Hawaii



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA (UHM) JAPANESE CULTURAL STUDIES

Lynn gave a presentation on the Nisei Soldier story via Zoom to a UHM Japanese Cultural Studies class on September 10, 2021. Dr. Elizabeth Keith invited Lynn to speak to her class of 19 undergraduate students. This was her 3rd UHM presentation at Dr. Keith's invitation.

One of the students whose ancestors had immigrated from Mexico, commented that she found the Nisei Soldier story to be moving and personally relevant.



Another student, Eric Quang, offered the following: "I wanted to thank you so much for taking the time to give us such an eye-opening and inspiring presentation about the Nisei. Growing up here in Hawaii throughout my whole life, I would always hear about the Nisei but would never fully grasp or understand their story and the impact they had and continue to have on Hawaii. It was so amazing to hear the very profound impacts they have had not only in service but also after in shaping Hawaii to what it is today."

STUDENTS FROM SIX SCHOOLS IN OITA PREFECTURE, JAPAN + STUDENTS FROM MILILANI, HAWAII

Byrnes Yamashita gave a presentation on the Nisei Soldiers to students from Usa City, Oita Prefecture on August 19, 2021 via Zoom. Students from six middle schools in Usa City participated along with some from Mililani Middle School. Pre-COVID, the Japanese students would visit Hawaii for a week of educational and cultural exchanges but due to travel restrictions, they were given a virtual tour and presentations online.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

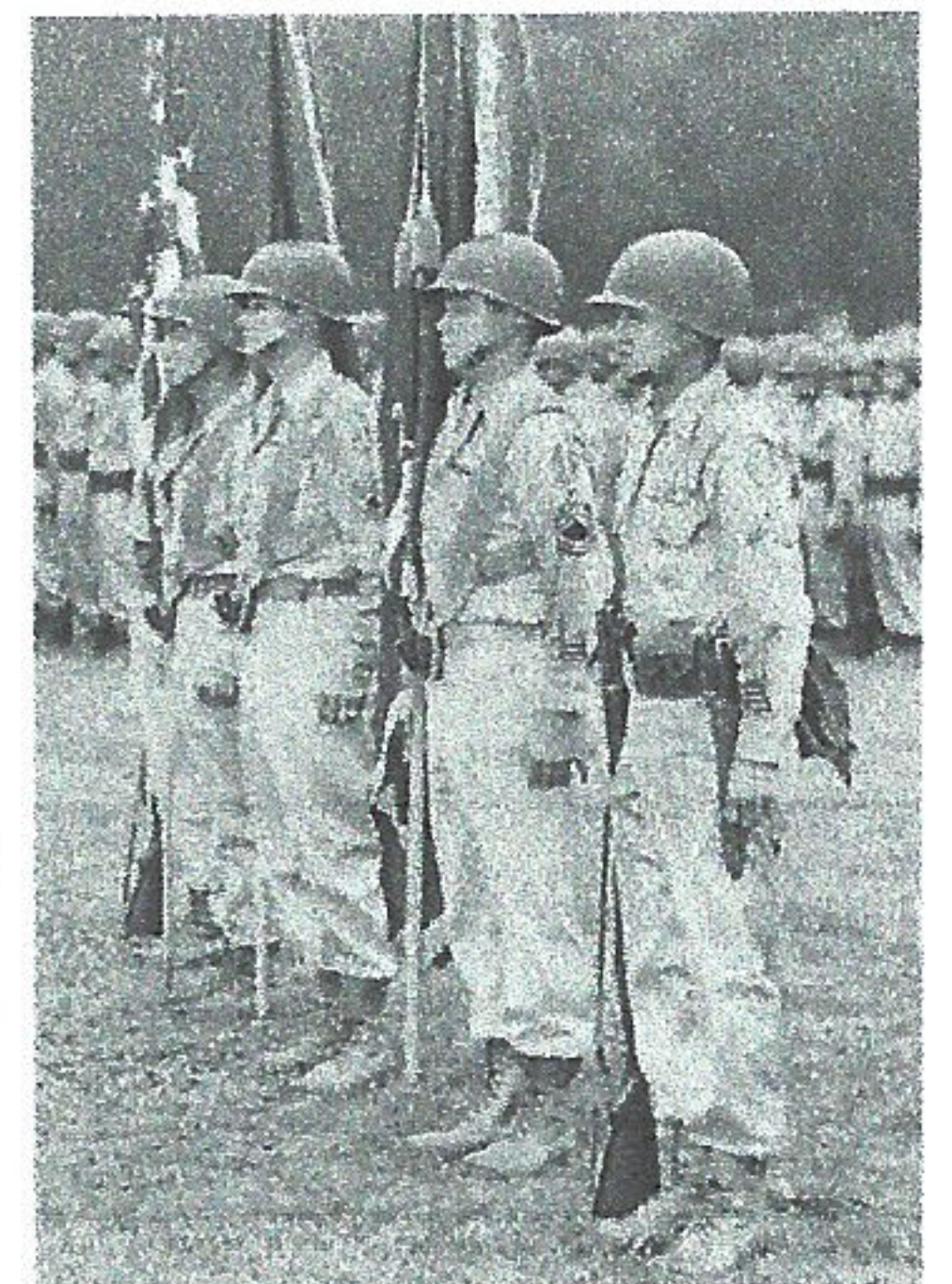


The 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack against our homeland is upon us. Experiencing that event is probably the closest many of us will ever come to understanding how the Nisei generation may have felt

when Japan attacked Oahu on December 7, 1941, plunging us into war.

The 1941 attack on our homeland unleashed deep-seated anti-Japanese distrust and prejudice which led to the incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans both in Hawaii and on the mainland. Yet it was against this backdrop that many young Nisei men and women stepped forward to prove their loyalty to America by serving in the

U.S. Army in Europe and the Pacific theatres during World War II. The highly decorated service of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team compelled President Truman to salute its return to U.S. soil in July 1946, saying, "You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice – and you have won." Many of the returning Veterans



continued the battle by working with others to transform Hawaii's social, political, and economic landscape.

For many young adults, 9/11 – which happened a mere 20 years ago – is largely a historical event. Making a personal connection, much less an emotional connection is difficult. So, imagine how much more challenging it must be for young adults to reach back seven decades and find personal meaning in the events of World War II.

In 2020, the U.S. Postal Service announced the historic issuance of the *Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII Forever Stamp*, the first stamp to feature the image



Major General (ret) Suzanne Vares-Lum

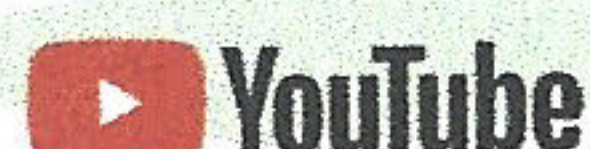
of an Asian American soldier. At the June 4, 2021, Hawaii stamp unveiling event, Major General (ret) Suzanne Vares-Lum, said, "Our generation and generations to come should not forget what our Nisei Veterans have done. At a time when we

are engaged in national conversations about discrimination and prejudice, the Nisei Soldier story has much to teach us."

The Nisei Soldier story – as relevant today as it was powerful then.

Mahalo,
Lynn Heirakuji
President, NVL

NVL Holds Successful Virtual Educational & Fundraiser Event



Kristen Nemoto Jay



Warren Haruki



William Kaneko



Geoff Sogi



Jennifer Okubo Polido



Lory Dillon



Kristin Alm Kamakahi

Mahalo to ABC Stores for their support and to our generous sponsors!

- AD2 International, Inc.
- Fidelity National Title & Escrow of Hawaii Inc.
- First Hawaiian Bank
- Hawaii Tribune-Herald
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser
- Island Insurance
- Koga Engineering & Construction
- Law Office of Jennifer R. Okubo Polido LLC
- Servco Foundation

The NVL live streamed a virtual educational event on July 24, 2021 on the NVL website and YouTube. The 30-minute program, titled "Hawaii's Nisei Soldiers: Their Legacy Continues," provided information on the mission and educational programs of the NVL and how the war and post-war sacrifices and contributions of the Nisei Soldiers are still relevant to today's issues.

The event also doubled as a fundraiser and was very successful, raising over \$40,000 to allow the NVL to continue its educational mission. Steve Uyehara and Liz Chun emceed the program which featured testimonies from: Lynn Heirakuji, NVL president; Jennifer Okubo Polido, estate planning attorney; and the following members of our community.

- WARREN HARUKI, CEO, Grove Farms; former president Hawaiian Tel and Verizon Hawaii; and NVL advisor
- WILLIAM KANEKO, attorney, and former president, JAACL Honolulu Chapter
- GEOFF SOGI, president, JAACL Honolulu Chapter
- KRISTEN NEMOTO JAY, writer
- LORY DILLON, Hawaii school teacher

During the program, Warren Haruki, son of a 442nd RCT soldier, shared a letter that he received in 1992 from Ted Tsukiyama, MIS veteran. Ted told Warren that the professional recognition he, (Warren) had earned was the "kind of vision the Nisei Soldier huddled in the battle trenches during WWII yearned for and dreamed of."

The event was co-chaired by Jennifer Okubo Polido and Kristin Alm Kamakahi, both granddaughters of Nisei veterans. Here are their comments about their experience:

Kristin: "It was an honor to assist with the virtual event. I have always had an interest in being able to give back to an organization related to the legacy of the Nisei Veterans. My grandfather, Buzzy Okazaki, was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and over the years he shared many stories about World War II and his life both before and after. I feel very strongly about continuing to share the stories of the Nisei Veterans so that future generations can learn from their experience and feel inspired by their bravery and courage."

Jennifer: "As a granddaughter of a Nisei Soldier, I was honored to be interviewed for the educational video portion of our virtual event. It allowed me to share my perspective of the importance of the Nisei Soldier story, especially in today's world."

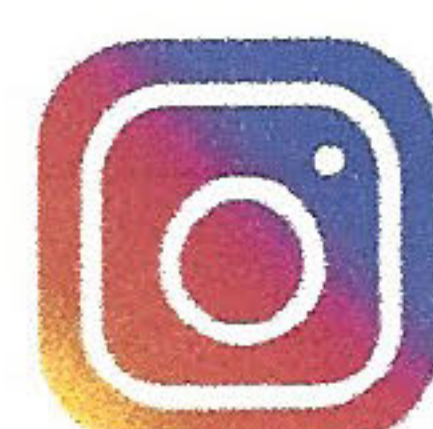
Both Kristin and Jennifer were recently approved by the NVL board as new directors. We enthusiastically congratulate and welcome them.

A big Mahalo to all companies and individuals who made donations or other contributions in support of the virtual event. See the NVL website for list of donors.

To view the event video go to <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz6CA4vkNxQ>>.

2021 Nisei Soldier Memorial Service

The team comprised of local Nisei Veteran organizations created to plan the September 26, 2021 Nisei Soldier Memorial Service at Punchbowl Cemetery had been making great progress. Unfortunately, due to the worsening COVID situation, Punchbowl Cemetery canceled all in-person events. However, to keep the annual ceremonial tradition alive, the NVL - as it did in 2020 - will produce a video commemorating the event. The video will be released in early November 2021. More to come on this.



Follow us on Instagram:

If using the Instagram mobile app, go to @nvchawaii or visit <<https://www.instagram.com/nvchawaii/>>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 9th Mission Support Command (MSC):

On June 24, the NVL coordinated a meeting with the 9th MSC at Fort Shafter, Hawaii with several members of the local Nisei Veterans community. Besides NVL leadership, representatives from the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans, Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT, MIS Education Society of Hawaii, and the 442nd RCT Veterans Club attended. The group heard the command presentation by Brigadier General Timothy Connelly and engaged in a lively discussion about the 100th Battalion 442nd Regiment that carries on the name of two of the famous Nisei Army units of World War II.



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2. Senator Mazie Hirono: On July 1, NVL president Lynn Heirakuji met with U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono at the Senator's request to update her on the NVL. They had a very good discussion, and the Senator was particularly interested in and supportive of the NVL's additional focus on equity issues.

3. Nisei Soldier Experience at the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA): A special event focusing on the Nisei Soldier Experience at the new NMUSA in Ft. Belvoir, VA, was held on August 28, 2021. Over 26 wartime objects of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT, and MIS are on display at the NMUSA, along with nine Nisei Soldier life stories and interactive maps depicting the European and Pacific Campaigns. Nisei Veterans Charles Moriyama (Honolulu) and Ralph Matsumoto (California) attended the event along with many other invited family members. Army Generals Eric Shinseki (ret) and Paul Nakasone spoke at the event which was coordinated by the National Veterans Network (NVN). The NVN worked with the NMUSA from 2017 to 2020 to gather the artifacts and content for the exhibit.



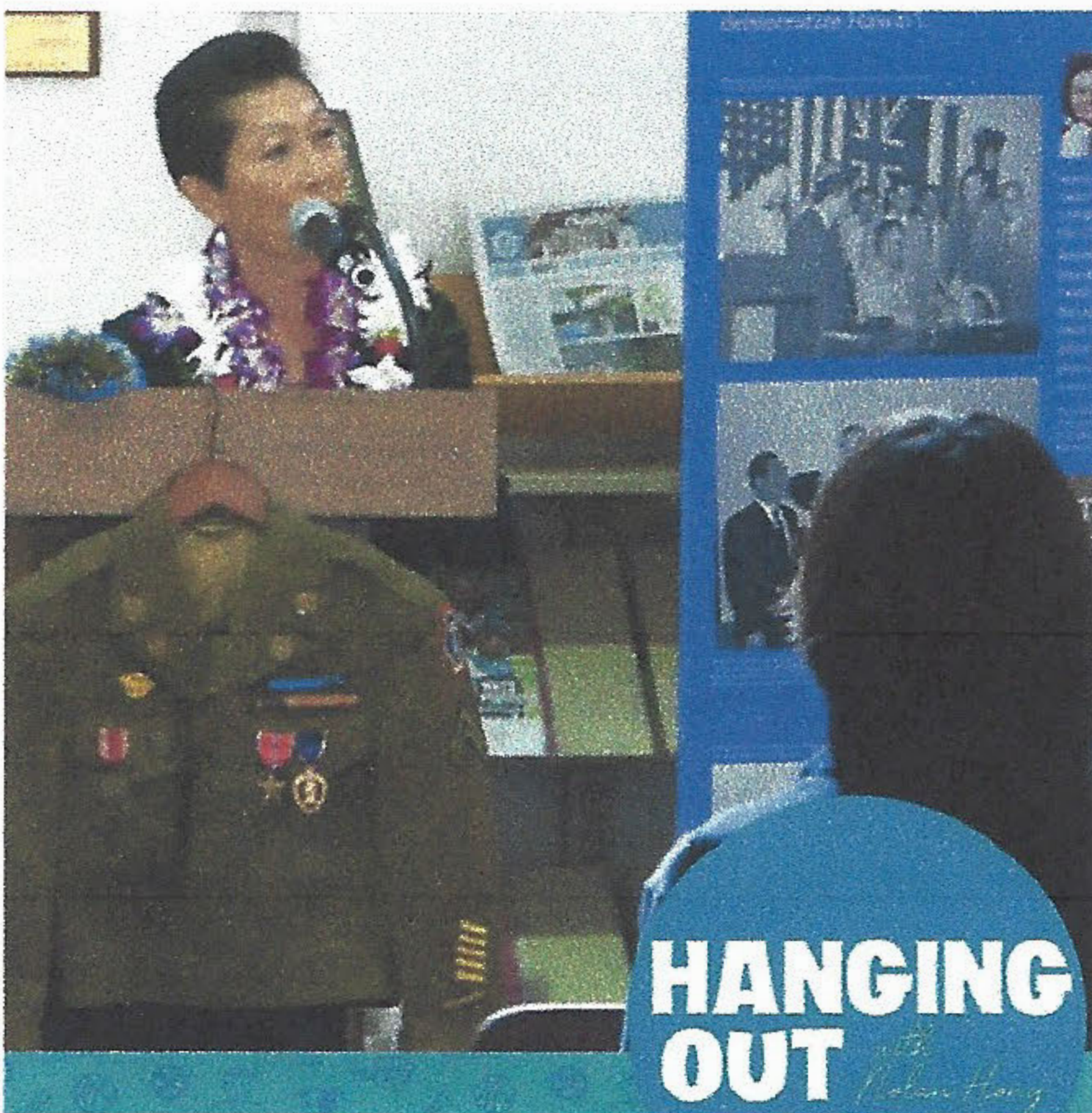
Nisei veterans Charles Moriyama and Ralph Matsumoto at the Nisei Soldier Exhibit NMUSA

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4. Podcast: Check out Lynn's August 20, 2021, 1-hour "Hanging Out With Nolan Hong" podcast at: <<https://nolanhong.com/187-lynn-heirakuji/>> in which she talks about the Nisei Soldier legacy and its impact on her life.

5. NVL Leadership Change: Wes Deguchi, NVL Founder, past president, and board director, will be transitioning from his director position to become an NVL advisor. We thank Wes for his initial vision and many years of service as a director in promoting the Hawaii Nisei Soldier story. In addition, Janice Trubitt will be ending her 4-year term as an NVL board director. We also appreciate her support of the legacy.

6. Foodland Give Aloha Program: It's that time of year again. The Give Aloha program is open from September 1-30. If you haven't already, please make a donation in the NVL's name (account no. 79019) at any Foodland, Sack & Save and Foodland Farms stores. The Foodland and Western Union Foundations will match a portion of the funds donated. Mahalo.



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NVL to Conduct Market Research for Educational Messaging Geared Toward Younger Generations

The NVL updated its message themes (see February 2021 NVL News) to highlight cultural values, contextual Hawaii history, Japan-Hawaii linkages, and outreach to the younger generations. We intended these themes to form the foundation for our future educational content. One of the themes included:

Understanding and perpetuating the Nisei Soldier legacy can inspire current and future generations to continue fighting for racial and social equity, and justice for all.

We recognize that in order to generate interest in the legacy among younger generations, we must awaken in them a sense of relevance.

To help us gain clearer insight into the issues and topics of high interest to younger generations in Hawaii, the NVL plans to conduct focus groups and surveys targeting that population with the assistance of Nathan Hokama who developed our NVL communications plan in 2020. The effort is intended to help us effectively demonstrate the relevance of the sacrifices and contributions of the Nisei Soldiers to modern times, including their post-war drive for social and racial equity in Hawaii. Our goals are to create impactful videos and begin formulating a unique educational/lecture series package including a leadership component geared toward college-age individuals.

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NISEI VETERANS LEGACY 1399th Engineer
Construction Battalion.