

Words of War, Lessons of Peace: A Multigenerational Symposium for Peacemaking

"Words of War, Lessons of Peace: A Multigenerational Symposium for Peacemaking" featured the personal experiences and recollections of civilians impacted by World War II. The symposium was held on Sunday, November 21, from 1-3 p.m. at UH Mānoa's Architecture Auditorium.

Izumi Hirano, a Hawai'i-born Nisei who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima spoke about his wartime and postwar experiences, and Helene Minehira, whose family was evicted from their home near Pearl Harbor solely on the basis of race, spoke about her wartime fears and the disruption of family life.

The oral history narrative of Alfred Preis, a German national incarcerated as an enemy alien at Sand Island Detention Camp, and the oral history narrative of Gussie Ornellas, a Kalihi Valley resident who lost two daughters to American anti-aircraft fire on December 7, 1941, were also read. The slam poetry of Darron Cambra and the winning entries of elementary, middle, and high school students who submitted their work to the Write for Peace Contest, were featured, as well.

Organized by William S. Richardson School of Law JD candidate Scott T. Nishimoto, the event was free and open to the public.

The symposium was co-sponsored by UH Mānoa's William S. Richardson School of Law, Center for Oral History, Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution, Ethnic Studies Department, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Soto Mission of Hawai'i.