

Haaheo Lou Ann Guanson

Dr. Guanson has a long history in the advocacy and the teaching of nonviolence and reconciliation in Hawaii and the world. She teaches and trains children from three years of age to seniors in their nineties in peacemaking and nonviolence. She is an advocate for justice and reconciliation.

Presently, she serves as the Director of the non-profit Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center located in Chinatown, Honolulu, whose mission is to create a culture of peace and nonviolence for the children of the world. The Center's work include reconciliation, mediation, education, working with houseless, teaching Hawaiian spirituality in prisons, Hawaiian sovereignty, using peace martial arts to teach self control and peacemaking, using the dance arts, such as hula, to promote the spirit of Aloha, and the study of ikebana as a cultural peace activity.

Dr. Guanson also teaches at the University of Hawaii Manoa (UHM) for the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the School of Social Work. She has been associated with the Institute for Peace since its inception, including past service as its Director and Associate Professor. She teaches courses in the Power of Nonviolence, Gandhi, King, Hawaii's Queen Liliuokalani, Indigenous Peacemaking, Personal Peace, Hooponopono, and Peace Leadership.

She is in the process of developing an indigenous university based on nonkilling and nonviolence.

Successful reconciliation work includes: the United Church of Christ (UCC) Apology and Redress to Native Hawaiians and working with Governor John D. Waihee on the Apology of the United States of America to the Hawaiian People.

A sampling of her publications and videos include: editor, Teaching Peace, 2nd Ed.; producer, Peace Education on the Waianae Coast (video); co-editor with Professors Emeritus George Simson and Glenn Paige of UHM, Journeys to Nonviolence, (authoring one of the chapters); editor, Pono: A Handbook for Hawaiian Sovereignty, UCC; author of "Nonviolence in Hawaii's Spiritual Traditions", for a book edited by others and published by the Institute for Peace; producer and director of the Hawaii Public Television documentary, "The Wally Yonamine Story" about Hawaii's famed athlete who, with several other Japanese-Americans from Hawaii, introduced American style baseball to Japan after World War II and helped to bridge the divide between America and Japan.

She has served as the Vice-president of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Vice-president of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Chair of the City of Honolulu Commission on the Status of Women, member of the Interfaith Alliance, President of Dances We Dance, Vice-president of the Center for Global Nonviolence.

Recipient of a number of awards, she is proud of receiving the Peacemaker Award from the Church of the Crossroads, recognition as one of Ten Women Peacemakers in the world, and of demonstrating her skills and receiving her certification as a black belt and instructor in peace martial arts in Shotokan Karate.

HAAHEO LOU ANN GUANSON: a leader, teacher, researcher, and advocate for the creation of a culture of peace and nonviolence for the world.