

# Professor Dennis M. Ogawa Receives the Commendation of the Consul General of Japan in Honolulu

Dennis M. Ogawa, Professor of the American Studies Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa received the Commendation from Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda at the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu on April 23, 2015.

Ogawa was honored for promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and the United States at the grassroots level, through his teaching and academic research in the field of Japanese-American Studies and ethnic identity, and educating our local community about Japan, its language and its culture, by means of television programming and media.



Toyoei Shigeeda, Consul General of Japan and Dennis M. Ogawa

Ogawa was born in Manzanar, California. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1969, where he was honored as one of the founders of the University's Asian American Studies Center. That same year, he joined the faculty at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he pioneered the first courses on Japanese Americans. He continues his tenure till today, educating students on the Japanese American experience in large lecture classes for the American Studies Department where he also served as Chair.

Over the course of the last four decades, Ogawa has written numerous publications and books and is especially noted for *Jan Ken Po: The World of Hawaii's Japanese Americans* and *Kodomo no Tame ni – For the Sake of the Children*, both best sellers for the University of Hawai'i Press.

For his research and teachings, he has been recognized as Distinguished Historian by the Hawaiian Historical Society, recipient of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's CLAD award for achievement and leadership in the field of Education, Senior Fellow for both East-West Center and the Japan Society for the promotion of Science.

*... I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and express my deep appreciation to our honoree for his strong commitment to furthering the bonds of friendship and cooperation shared between Japan and Hawaii, and between Japan and the United States. I sincerely hope that Dr. Ogawa will continue to lend his steadfast focus and his defined leadership qualities so that we may continue this strong relationship in the coming years.*

Toyoei Shigeeda, Consul General of Japan

A key figure in the community, Ogawa currently serves as Director of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii; Member of the Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum; a Member of the Board of Governors of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i; and a Member of the U.S.–Japan Council.