



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Public invited to Peace Day Celebration at Convention Center

Honolulu, Sept. XX, 2008. The public is invited to celebrate the second annual Peace Day Hawaii on Sept. 21 at the Hawaii State Convention Center. This free, all-day celebration will focus statewide attention on domestic, national and global peace. The event will include a forum on peace education from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., a peace ceremony and candlelight vigil from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a statewide "Bells for Peace" ringing at 9 a.m.

All churches, temples, places of worship and organizations have been invited to ring their bells to open the Peace Day Hawaii celebration. The Pacific Buddhist Academy and Aiea and Pearl City Lions Club will hold a special ceremony at 9 a.m. at the Neal S. Blaisdell Park to ring a Japanese peace bell that they recently cleaned up and rid of graffiti. The public is invited, and all attendees will be able to ring the bell.

The peace education forum -- titled "Is Peace Possible in Our Schools?" -- will include guest speaker Tricia S. Jones, a Temple University professor who specializes in conflict resolution, who will discuss "Conflict Management Nationwide Educational Initiatives." Other speakers will be Jeannie Lum, an associate professor at the University of Hawai'i; Peter Greenhill, co-director of 'Iolani School's Peace Institute; state Rep. Lyla Berg; and Justin Mew, principal of Niu Valley Middle School.

The Peace Day Hawaii 2008 Celebration Ceremony will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The program includes speakers, peace video clips, taiko performances, hula dancers, singers, a candle light vigil for peace, and a Peace Day Hawaii award presentation.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation to officially recognize and annually celebrate the International Day of Peace, which was established by the United Nations as the Day of worldwide ceasefire and non-violence.

The 2007 Legislature passed a bill, introduced by State Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu on behalf of the members of the Hawaii Federation of Junior Young Buddhist Association, which was signed into law April 17, 2007 by Governor Linda Lingle.

Information on Peace Day Hawaii ceremony: 808-586-8490, Peace Day Forum: 808-956-4244.

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