

Editors' Note

This long-awaited issue of the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal* debuts along with our new and fully reconstructed website. Since May 2011, *APL&PJ* has commenced several ambitious initiatives to improve the operations and professionalism of the Journal, including building a new website, improving outreach to scholars and readers, and physically relocating into a new working environment. When *APL&PJ* was first established in 1999, the founding editors initially faced great resistance and skepticism, but despite the obstacles, succeeded in getting the journal up and running. Over the last twelve years, *APL&PJ* has grown by leaps and bounds, affording students an opportunity to work collaboratively, grow professionally, and support scholarship in an area that we are all passionate about. This year's editorial staff feels that the time is ripe to move the Journal into a new phase of development. Over the next year, we will not only publish two more excellent issues of the Journal, but also enhance the improvement initiatives already underway. With a more interactive website, readers will be better apprised of the exciting developments going on within our Journal, so stay tuned!

Apart from being the first issue published on our new website, this issue of *APL&PJ* is unique in an important way – it is the first issue dedicated entirely to scholarship pertaining to Pacific Island communities. While this was an accidental circumstance, it is a welcome one given our desire to improve the quality and quantity of *APL&PJ*'s coverage of issues within Oceania. Each of these articles represents a substantial and pertinent contribution to the growing canon of legal scholarship in Oceania, and as such they each have the potential to impact law and policy throughout the region and increase global understanding of the issues faced by communities in Oceania. We are pleased to present a groundbreaking and comprehensive treatise on Constitutional Law in Palau; an article arguing for the development of comprehensive formal legal frameworks to address domestic violence in Pacific Island countries; and three timely student comments on Hawaiian issues, including expanding the legal definition of the 'ohana for subsistence gathering purposes, the growth of alternative dispute resolution in the Hawai'i Courts, and the development of the treatment of iwi (Native Hawaiian remains) and burial objects under a new federal legal regime.

As a final comment, we would like to thank our wonderful authors for their patience and understanding as we postponed publication while working on our website and moving into our new space. We would also like to thank administrators at the William S. Richardson School of Law – Dean Avi Soifer, Dean Denise Antolini, and Chief Operating Officer Dale Lee (COOL) – for supporting us throughout this transitional period, patiently engaging our requests, and generously contributing funds which allowed us to purchase new equipment and furniture. We also sincerely

thank the Law Library staff – Roberta Woods, Swee Berkey, and Diane Frake – who assisted us in our move and accepted our presence in the Law Library with aloha. *APL&PJ* especially welcomes our new Law Library Director, Vicky Szymczak. A warm mahalo to the Law School's Information Technology staff for their professional and friendly assistance. Finally, additional thanks go to our incoming Staff Editors, who have not only tolerated the whirlwind of changes occurring within the Journal, but have enthusiastically supported our efforts to improve.

Joanne S.C. Sheng
Editor-in-Chief, 2011-2012

Kori A. Weinberger
Executive Editor, 2011-2012