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NEW HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM SET TO LAUNCH THIS SUMMER:

CAN HAWAII'S ALOHA SPIRIT SURVIVE A WAR?

***Expanded unit to address sociopolitical effects of Pearl Harbor bombing,
History of Japanese American WWII soldiers***

HONOLULU and LOS ANGELES (July 15, 2021)—Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), along with Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) and Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC), today announced the formal launch of a new expanded high school curriculum, *Can Hawai'i's Aloha Spirit Survive a War?*, which was developed in collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Education (HDOE). This curriculum includes the unit segment, *Ganbare! Never Give Up! Nisei Soldiers of WWII*, which explores the history of the Japanese American WWII soldiers.

"No generation has left a greater impact on future generations than the Nisei who served in the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. My father, Tokio Ige, who served in the 100th Battalion, seldom talked about his wartime experience," The Honorable Governor David Y. Ige said. "Much of what I learned about his service was learned after his passing. I want to thank the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Go for Broke National Education Center, Nisei Veterans Legacy and the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center for cementing their legacy through this new curriculum."

Initially, the curriculum was a 40-minute lesson plan introduced by JCCH and GFBNEC in the summer of 2018. Based on a spring 2019 pilot test with 12 high school teachers across O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i and Kaua'i, further work was completed by early 2020 with the Hawai'i DOE to expand the lesson plan to an Inquiry Design Model (IDM) Blueprint, a fully instructional unit that leads students to examine the compelling question, "Can Hawai'i's Aloha Spirit Survive a War?"

"This project will help to ensure that the next generation will not forget the lessons, sacrifices and legacy of the 100th and 442nd Regimental Combat Team," First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige said. "As an educator and daughter of a 442nd veteran, I believe there is no better way of honoring the 'greatest generation' by remembering and teaching their stories in our schools. This new curriculum unit on the WWII Nisei soldier is an outstanding tribute, and I thank Go for Broke

National Education Center, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i, and the Hawai‘i State Department of Education for developing it.”

Specifically, the unit addresses the sociopolitical effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the community values of “aloha spirit” and its deep roots in Hawai‘i and the history of Japanese American soldiers in WWII. The IDM blueprint also meets two state of Hawai‘i’s educational standards:

- **Inquiry Standard SS.9-12.4.2:** Present arguments and explanations that reach a range of audiences using print and oral technologies [e.g., posters, essays, letters, debates, speeches, reports, maps] and digital technologies [e.g., internet, social media, digital documentary].
- **Content Standard SS.MHH.3.19.2:** Analyze the local sociopolitical effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Sample Content/Concepts: 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Japanese American internment, etc.*

“The unique investigative nature of this unit is a much more engaging, interactive way to make a 75-year-old story meaningful and relevant to students today,” Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC’s President and Chief Executive Officer, said. “We are grateful for the opportunity to work with JCCH, and now with NVL and NVMC, to ensure that the Japanese American WWII soldiers’ stories of courage, sacrifice and patriotism are permanently placed in Hawai‘i’s classrooms.”

Following a year-long delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JCCH and GFBNEC teamed up with NVL and NVMC in February 2021 to formally roll out the expanded curriculum. A small sample of two Oahu teachers tested the unit in their classrooms this past spring semester. To introduce the curriculum to more teachers, a virtual Teacher Orientation will be held on Wednesday, July 21 at 10 a.m. HST and Thursday, July 22 2021 at 3 p.m. HST with the goal of presenting the unit during the 2021-2022 academic school year. Teachers who complete all of the requirements, including providing feedback after the curriculum is taught to a minimum of two classes, will receive a small stipend. The Hawai‘i DOE is also seeking to place the expanded curriculum on the national educator website, C3 Teachers.

“It is very rewarding and gratifying to see this curriculum moving forward and enthusiastically embraced by our Hawai‘i teachers,” Nate Gytoku, JCCH President and Executive Director, said. “It is also important, especially post-pandemic, that organizations work together to share resources and maximize impact. The enhanced team with NVL and NMVC has been instrumental to putting this curriculum on the educational forefront and enhancing the student’s experience.”

To learn more and to download the curriculum, visit www.jcch.com/lesson-plans. To register for the July 21 and July 22 Teacher Orientation, email Nate Gytoku at gytoku@jcch.com. Space is limited.

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About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of WWII and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the Nisei veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the interactive *Defining Courage* exhibition in downtown Los Angeles, as well as extensive oral histories and archives, educational programs and other initiatives. For more information, visit www.goforbroke.org.

About Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Established in 1987, the mission of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is to be a "vibrant resource, strengthening our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai'i." Through relevant programming, meaningful community service and innovative partnerships, JCCH enhances the understanding and celebration of our heritage, culture and love of the land while drawing from the values found in our Japanese American traditions and the spirit of Aloha. For more information, visit www.jcch.com.

About Nisei Veterans Legacy

The Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) was incorporated in 2012 with a mission to preserve, perpetuate and share the legacy of Americans of Japanese Ancestry who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II to prove their loyalty beyond all doubt and returned to help create a more fair and equitable society. In collaboration with the Japan-America Society of Hawai'i and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the NVL produced a photo exhibition on the history of Japanese in Hawai'i which traveled throughout Japan and Hawai'i. For more information, visit www.nvlchawaii.org.

About Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in Hawai'i in December 1991 with the goal of building a lasting tribute to the Nisei veterans of WWII. Throughout the year NVMC works to preserve and pass down the history and legacy of the Nisei soldier by developing educational exhibits; hosting talks by authors, teachers, and artists; and presenting workshops aimed at inspiring present and future generations. For more information, visit www.nvmc.org.

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