

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH)

A dialogue on social issues sponsored by the Honolulu Hongwanji Council and
funded by the HHMH Committee on Social Concerns

A DIALOGUE ON DEATH PENALTY – Legal, Ethical and Buddhist Perspectives

Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Buddhist Study Center

1436 University Ave Honolulu, HI 96822

(Near the corner of University Avenue and Dole Street)

This event is free and open to the public.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii conducts educational and awareness sessions on social issues and topics. Participants are offered an opportunity to understand issues from Buddhist and various other perspectives. In addition, participants may be able to reflect and consider their personal ideas and views on a social issue.

This event will focus on the death penalty in our criminal justice system. The following resource speakers will contribute to furthering our awareness and understanding of the death penalty in the U.S. and other societies:

Williamson B.C. Chang – Professor of Law, The University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) at the William S. Richardson School of Law; AB Princeton University (1972); JD University of California, Berkley (1975). Professor Chang was born and raised in Hawai'i. He has taught a wide variety of courses including corporations, securities regulations, Native Hawaiian Rights, Indigenous People's Law, Legal Aspects of Water Resources in Hawai'i, Jurisprudence, Conflict of Laws and Legal Practice. Recently, he continues to teach Conflict of Laws, Jurisprudence, Legal Practice, Legal Aspects of Water Resources in Hawaii and Business Associations.

Joel A. Lebel -- Lecturer/Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM); B.A. in Philosophy, Chinese, Bates College (2006); M.A. in Philosophy (Asian and Comparative), UHM (2012); Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy, UHM (expected 2016). Mr. Lebel is originally from Maine and Montana and came to Hawaii (2010) to complete graduate studies in philosophy. His dissertation research brings together three primary themes: A) Classical Chinese philosophical views on human creativity, interpretation and meaning, and moral/political engagement; B) Examining the faculty of imagination to take up a critical stance toward the history of Western political theorizing, C) Contemporary resources for understanding the central role played by the political imagination in terms of making judgments about the past, present, and future. Additional research interests include futures studies, philosophy of mind, and non-Western theories of morality and politics.

Pat Masters -- Associate Director, campus diversity programs, University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) ; Masters Degree in Buddhist Studies, UCLA and a PhD in Political Philosophy, UHM; Past President, Hawaii Association of International Buddhists; Meditation teacher, Bodhi Tree Meditation Center. Ms. Masters was born and raised in Los Angeles, to an Episcopalian mother and a Jewish father; and was exposed to many religious traditions growing up; became a Buddhist at 18 years old. She studied and taught in Japan, Nepal and India for many years; lived in a monastery for three years in Bodh Gaya, and was ordained as a Buddhist nun. Created and directed a Buddhist Studies Program in Kyoto for an American university; lived in monasteries in Kyoto, Koyasan and Hashimoto. Pat has lived in Hawai'i for 38 years.