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HAWAIIAN-JAPANESE CIVIC ASS'N

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

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January 3, 1942

Dear Friend:

This is not an attempt to tell you what to do. I simply wish to share with you some of my ideas during this very critical period which is facing us all.

We have long professed our loyalty to the United States. The time has now come when our loyalty is being put to the supreme test. Not only the people of Hawaii but the whole nation is watching us. Let us accept the challenge to prove beyond all doubt that we are Americans and can do our share as Americans in a common cause. Needless to say, the manner in which we conduct ourselves and the contribution we make in this critical period will determine to a very large extent our relationship with the rest of the people of Hawaii, not only during this emergency, but after the war is all over.

I am sure you have all heard or read General Emmons' speech of Sunday, December 21. Personally, I was very much reassured by his fair and sympathetic attitude. It is now up to us to measure up to the challenge he has placed before the people of Hawaii when he said that "it is important that Hawaii prove that her traditional confidence in her cosmopolitan population has not been misplaced."

There is much that we can do individually and as a group.

1. Keep our chins up. Let's look at the total picture and not gripe about individual cases of discrimination.
2. Reassure our alien parents that they will not be mistreated by the constituted authorities so long as they conduct themselves according to law. In this connection we should interpret to them the statement regarding the government's policy toward internees which appeared in Sunday's Advertiser, December 21, 1941. We should also interpret to them General Emmons' speech of the same date.
3. Contribute to the Red Cross.
4. Continue our donation to the blood bank.
5. Volunteer our services to the Civilian Defense organizations if we have not done so yet.
6. Respond to any call for help which may come from other sources and which is intended to bolster our national defense.
7. Keep ourselves productively employed. Anyone who keeps himself deliberately unemployed should be considered a slacker during these times. If he cannot get employment in certain places, he should work where he can.
8. Call the attention of the proper agencies to specific cases of families who need help. In some instances, we can share what we have until the public agencies can come to their aid.
9. Stop repeating rumors.
10. Report to the F.B.I., any information we may discover concerning subversive activities. The sooner the community is convinced that it need have no fear of these activities, the better it will be for all concerned.
11. Continue our normal contacts with our friends of all races.
12. Be discreet in the use of language, mannerisms or wearing apparel which might be a source of misunderstanding, suspicion or irritation to others. In a time like this, there is no excuse for using the Japanese language when conversing with someone who understands English.
13. Volunteer in the armed forces. Why wait until we are drafted.
14. Assume Active and aggressive leadership in controlling the thoughts and activities of our alien parents and in directing their lives in conformity with the American way.

Let us be calm, realistic and determined. This is no time for discouragement. Let us pull together, cooperate in every way with the constituted authorities and with the rest of the community, and justify the confidence that our many friends in both public and private life have expressed in our devotion to this nation.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Wakayama

JACK K. WAKAYAMA, President
Hawaiian-Japanese Civic Association

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This has been approved by the Public Relations Branch of the Army Intelligence, December 29th, 1941.

(Signed) K. J. Fielder, Col., G-2