

## **The First Battle** - The Battle for Equality in War-Time Hawaii (<http://www.thefirstbattle.com>)

### Lesson 2

#### STANDARDS

I. Historical Empathy: Students will learn to judge the past on its own terms and use this knowledge to understand present-day issues and problems, particularly those in the post-9/11 context in which constitutional rights have been selectively amended in America.

#### PROCEDURES:

I. Before viewing the remaining 37 minutes of "The First Battle" on the DVD:

- A. Ask students to discuss why Hawaii's history is so obscure
- B. Ask students to imagine what their own views and opinions might have been if they had lived in Hawaii during the years 1941-1945
- C. Discuss these terms: Historical revisionism, historical parallels, historical myths, historical fallacies

II. Briefly set the scene for the second, concluding part of the film with the following:

As you saw previously, the Council for Interracial Unity not only made plans before the war but sprang into action after the war started. Try to imagine yourselves engaged in such work. How hard is it to take action in an environment of confusion and fear? What might you have done?

III. Organize followup discussion around the following questions:

- A. Why do you think such figures as Shigeo Yoshida and Hung Wai Ching were all but lost to history?
- B. How do you imagine the events of "The First Battle" affected the future of Hawaii and America?
- C. In what way do you think inter-racial support and dialogue act as precondition to the development of democracy?

For students considering additional research, see Extended Interviews and Photo Gallery within this web site. For more in-depth research, students should turn to the Hawaii War Records Division, Hamilton Research Library, University of Hawaii; or US Army Hawaiian Command records of martial law in Hawaii, National Archives II, University of Maryland.

#### READINGS

- A. Coffman, Tom, *The Island Edge of America*, University of Hawaii Press 2003
- B. Odo, Franklin, *No Sword to Bury*, Temple University Press 2004
- C. Anthony, J. Garner, *Hawaii Under Army Rule*, University of Hawaii Press 1955