Editors’ Note

The editors of the Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal (“APLPJ”) are pleased to announce our first ever third issue: Volume 14, Issue 3! And what an exciting issue it is.

To kick off the issue, we have included first a bibliography compiled by our very own William S. Richardson School of Law (“WSRSL”) Mark Levin, Professor of Law, and WSRSL 2013 J.D. graduate, Adam Mackie. The bibliography, entitled Truth or Consequences of the Justice System Reform Council: An English Language Bibliography from Japan’s Millennial Legal Reforms, compiles in one place all English-language academic literature on Japan’s justice system reform. For Japan experts and enthusiasts who are interested in the effects of the justice system reform, this bibliography will no doubt offer a wealth of information. It is being republished in the Journal of Japanese Law, and there are plans for it to be continuously updated in the future.

Second, we include a translation of China’s Southern Weekend Editorial Board’s The Ten Most Influential Cases for 2011, by WSRSL Professor of Law, Dr. Lawrence C. Foster; WSRSL 2013 J.D. graduate, Thomas Villalón; and WSRSL 2014 J.D. candidate, Timothy Partelow. Continuing on with the important tradition of publishing such translations in APLPJ, Foster, Villalón, and Partelow provide the English-speaking world with insight into cases that not only impact the Chinese legal system, but is also offer an important view of the larger Chinese society. This translation, along with like-translations before it, enrich understanding in what has become one of the United State’s most important economic partners.

Third, we are thrilled to be publishing in this issue four articles, two of which advance legal scholarship in the Pacific and two in East Asia. To start, we have the pleasure of presenting Looking Back While Moving Forward: The Evolution of Truth Commissions in Korea, by Associate Professor Andrew Wolman, of the Graduate School of International and Area Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. Wolman’s article fills a gap in legal scholarship pertaining to South Korea by providing insight into the long history of truth commissions in South Korea.

Adding valuable perspective to an existing dialogue is Lecturer in Law, Breann Swann Nu‘uhiwa’s Government of the People, by the People, for the People: Cultural Sovereignty, Civil Rights, and Good Native Hawaiian Governance. In this truly novel article, Swann Nu‘uhiwa proposes an approach to civil rights that is based on core Native Hawaiian philosophies; that reconciles the values, expectations, and interests of the federal government; and that could serve as a source and expression of Native Hawaiian cultural sovereignty.

Next is A Costly Illusion?: An Empirical Study of Taiwan’s Use of Isolation to Control Tuberculosis Transmission and its Implications for Public Health Law and Policymaking, by Assistant Professor, Shin-Rou Lin, of the Institute of Technology Law, National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan. In this important article, Lin analyzes the Taiwanese government’s isolationist
approach to the re-emergence of the tuberculosis epidemic. Through Lin’s empirical study, she examines the strengths and weaknesses of isolation as the approach for responding to tuberculosis, as well as proposes more effective means by which to confront this chronic social problem.

Last, but certainly not least, is Land in Trust: The Invasion of Palau’s Land-Tenure Customs by American Law by Antonio Cortés, who acted as General Legal Counsel to the Koror State Government, Republic of Palau from 1993 to 1997. Cortés’s article details the important history of land tenureship in Palau through primary sources and through information gleaned during his time in Palau. Given that this is the first time that a legal perspective on Palauan land tenureship has been detailed in such a way, we know it will make an impact on the scholarship relating to that country.

Finally, we are happy to be publishing one comment by APLPJ’s own Randall M.G. Wat, WSRSL 2013 J.D. graduate. His comment, The Law of Green Buildings in Hawaii: Is the Goal of Energy Efficiency Achievable?, explores Hawaii’s green building standards in comparison to those of Washington and Connecticut. Utilizing numerous interviews, Wat offers a contribution to understanding Hawaii’s approach to green building that has not yet been seen before in legal academia.

With this issue, we, the 2012-2013 co-Editors-in-Chief end our time with APLPJ. Looking back, we see a year of growth and learning, for which we will be forever thankful. We wish to thank our fellow APLPJ editors for all their hard work throughout the year, both in terms of the editing they did and also in terms of all the other projects they steadfastly worked on to advance this journal. We additionally wish to thank our authors for their good humor and diligence as we navigated the many editing rounds. Finally, we wish to thank our advisors for their consistent guidance, the APLPJ alumni for their continued support, the editors of the University of Hawai‘i Law Review for their camaraderie as we navigated a shared space, and all the other people who have supported, helped, and encouraged APLPJ and the members of the journal throughout the year. APLPJ’s first ever year publishing three issues could not have happened otherwise.

With that, we pass the torch of this great publication into the very capable hands of the incoming executive board. May it be as pivotal a law school experience for you as it was for us.

Sincerely,

Adair K. Fincher
Co-Editor-in-Chief
2012-2013

Shirley S. Lou-Magnuson
Co-Editor-in-Chief
2012-2013