

Aug 6, 2019 Helen Jaccard Keynote Address:

Thank you to -

Maui Taiko,

Koto Music - Interfaith Peace Prayers,

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Committee, Iao United Church of Christ, Maui Peace Action, Maui Seasons for Peace, and Rissho Kosei Kai Buddhist Church of Hawaii, and all of you for coming!

Special thank you to Mele Stokesberry and Chuck Carletta for their work to put this program together and for hosting me and my partner in their home.

I would like to thank my partner, Gerry Condon, who is the National President of VFP for coming to Hawaii to support the Golden Rule and everything that he does for peace!

Resisting Nuclear Madness and Militarism in the Pacific

Just as Captain Albert Bigelow did when he resigned his military career in 1945 to protest the US nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we must all recognize that destroying whole cities filled with civilians, killing hundreds of thousands of people must **never** be done **again**. The Quakers were very clear about why they sailed *Golden Rule* towards the Marshall Islands - to stop nuclear weapons tests and the radiation that those tests were putting into the air and water.

Nuclear Madness includes the whole nuclear chain, from uranium mining, enrichment and production - to use and no safe disposal. These processes create environmental destruction of poor rural areas where indigenous people live. The nuclear industry depends on lies, secrecy and takeover of other people's lands **by threat of force** if necessary.

Veterans For Peace opposes colonization and use of force as well as the products of the nuclear industry. Many veterans suffer health problems from depleted uranium exposure. And we all hope that military members will never have to decide whether to obey an order that could reduce civilization to ashes.

We recognize the huge impact of military bases and activities throughout the Pacific Islands including Hawaii, Guam, Okinawa, Jeju Island South Korea and Japan - the US brings destruction of the environment and affects the lives of the people to almost everywhere in the world, with over

800 military bases in other countries. Imagine if there were 800 military bases of other countries in the U.S? Would we want those countries to do unto us as we have done unto them?

North Korea, Iran, INF and New Start (Feb 2021 expires)

Humanity faces two interconnected existential threats - climate change and nuclear war. Even detonating 100 of the 15,000 modern nuclear weapons would send up enough soot into the upper atmosphere to reduce sunlight and affect crop production for a decade. Two billion people would be at risk of starvation.

The threat of nuclear annihilation has never been greater, as judged by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists who have moved the Doomsday Clock back to 2 minutes before midnight. Only twice, in 1953 and 2018 have we been so close to wiping out human society.

With North Korea testing nuclear weapons and missiles, the war of words between the U.S. and North Korea could easily have turned into nuclear war. India and Pakistan, both armed with nuclear weapons, are again in extreme conflict over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, all Parties must “pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament, and to general and complete disarmament”. Although the US has ratified this Treaty, good-faith negotiations have not taken place since the Reagan-Gorbachev era when the US and USSR reduced the number of nuclear weapons from 80,000 to 15,000.

Tearing up the Iran nuclear agreement could mean a disastrous use of nuclear weapons against Iran, with possible retaliation by China and Russia. President Trump’s threats to completely annihilate Afghanistan within a 10-day period is a cloaked threat to use nuclear weapons - and possibly against Iran.

Now the US has withdrawn from Intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement, which was put in place to reduce the chances of war in Europe. President Trump’s new Defense Secretary Mark Esper has stated that he would like to place such weapons in Asia within a matter of months. Some of these weapons could carry either conventional or nuclear weapons, which poses an even greater danger of their use or retaliation against what is used.

Finally, President Trump has indicated that he will allow the last remaining treaty, New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, between the US and Russia to expire in February 2021.

All of this is potentially catastrophic news.

But there are people working world wide to stop the possibility of nuclear war -

UN TPNW

On July 7, 2017 122 countries of the United Nations agreed to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons! So far, 70 countries have signed it and 25 countries have ratified the Treaty. When 50 countries have ratified it, it comes in to force, so as of today, when Bolivia signed, we're 1/2 way there! The treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities.

“Assistance and encouragement” of nuclear weapons includes **funding** their development and production - international banks and companies producing nuclear weapons must stop doing business in countries that are party to the Treaty, so this is one way we can impact the nuclear industry. And we in the US can move our money from banks that fund nuclear weapons. Some cities and pension funds are doing just that!

Introducing legislation such as resolutions in support of the TPNW **serve to educate the public** about why these treaties and laws are necessary, thus building and encouraging the nuclear disarmament movement.

Other good legislation has been introduced and is part of the Back from the Brink framework:

- Declare a “no first use” policy on nuclear weapons
- Eliminate the ability of the President to launch nuclear weapons without a declaration of war by congress
- Stop the \$1.2 trillion nuclear “modernization” program
- Take the ICBM missiles off of hair-trigger alert.

Golden Rule

Veterans For Peace and the Golden Rule Project support all of these measures and are working to get more US states and cities to pass resolutions in support of the TPNW and Back from the Brink framework.

We would like to work with you to get all of the counties and the State of Hawaii to pass resolutions.

We are also publicizing the environmental and human costs of militarization of the Pacific. For example, closing the **Pohakuloa** training base on the Big Island and the Barking Sands bombing range in Kaua'i. There are over 42,000 square miles of air space controlled by this base. There are dozens of military facilities in the Hawaiian Islands, but there are also facilities that appear to be for civilian or scientific work that could be used for military purposes.

Mauna Kea

The TMT on Mauna Kea is funded by large universities, corporations, and the US government. But you can do more with a telescope than look for new planets and stars. You can use telescopes to support the weaponization of space - space wars.

Veterans For Peace supports the movement to stop the three meter telescope. We are proud to stand in solidarity with Native Hawaiians in the protection of the sacred mountain, Mauna a Wakea.

The protest at Mauna Kea is an event of epic proportions, not just for the sacred mountain, but in support of indigenous rights throughout the world. Now is the time to say, "One too big, one too many, Enough is Enough".

Veterans for Peace has stood with Native Americans at Standing Rock and we have sent delegations to Okinawa, Jeju Island (South Korea), Palestine and Ferguson (Missouri) in solidarity with those challenging militarism.

We do not believe it is an accident that the Golden Rule is arriving to the Big Island of Hawai'i at the very time of the profound Hawai'ian resistance to the construction of a huge telescope on the sacred mountain, Mauna Kea. We are here to witness your courageous resistance and to spread the news to Veterans For Peace members in the U.S. and around the world. We will call on all our members to take action in support of Mauna Kea.

We also admire greatly the work of voyagers and navigators in the around-the-world journey of the voyaging canoe Hokulea.

Enough is Enough! Just as with the thirty meter telescope, "It's time to have the courage to stand up to the military and nuclear industries and say, "Enough! The nuclear age, like the age of fossil fuels, is over. Let's move swiftly to end the nuclear era and militarism and re-invest all the financial and human resources into green technologies that will address the climate crisis and meet the **real needs** of this country and the world."

Golden Rule

On Wednesday, July 31, the *Golden Rule* arrived in Hilo harbor after a three-week sail from California. She has returned to the Hawaiian Islands after 61 years.

This is the first leg of a voyage that will take us to the Marshall Islands, Guam, Saipan, Pagan, Okinawa and finally Hiroshima, Japan by August 6, 2020 for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We are sailing for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future. During our Pacific voyage we will highlight the destructive effects of militarism on Indigenous rights and the environment in the Pacific islands.

Here in Hawai'i, *Golden Rule* will visit the Big Island, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai, departing in mid-December 2020 . We invite everyone in Hawai'i to visit the Golden Rule.

And we invite you to join us and others to "Resist Nuclear Madness and Militarism" in the Pacific!