

# **Leveraging Area Collections: Preserving the Legacy of Korean War Veterans through Community Engagement**

**University of Hawaii Library's Korean War Collection**

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# Academic Libraries as Agents of Community Engagement

## The Role of Academic Libraries

- University libraries support research and education.
- The American Library Association (ALA) Academic Library Selection Policy Objectives

The main objective of an academic library's selection policy is to provide the **college community** with a wide range of scholarly materials that are consistent with the **institution's mission**, curricula/research needs, and the tenets of academic freedom.

## UH Library's Community Focus

- The University of Hawaii defines itself as a “community-serving university.”
- UH Library aims to foster education, research, and community engagement.

# The Korean War and Hawaii's Unique Role

- **Hawaii has a significant number of Korean War veterans.**
- **Historical Background**
  - **WWII discrimination: Japanese Americans in Hawaii faced prejudice due to Japan being a U.S. enemy.**
  - **Large Japanese American population: Over one-third of Hawaii's residents were of Japanese descent, the highest in the U.S.**
  - **Military enlistment: Many joined the U.S. military to prove their loyalty.**
  - **Deployment to Korea: After WWII, stationed in Japan → Among the first sent to the Korean War.**
- **7,500 Hawaiian residents served in the Korean War, with 456 killed in action.**

## The “Forgotten War”

- **Media underrepresentation and historical amnesia**
- **The war’s placement between larger conflicts**
- **The war’s impact on East Asia and local community in the US and its limited recognition**



# Preserving the Legacy: The Korean War Collection

- **Project launch in November 2023**
- **Over 200 items donated: personal diaries, photographs, war materials, and medals**
- **Focus on preserving veterans' personal narratives**

# The Project Process: Steps and Procedures

- Initial outreach and collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu



# The Project Process: Steps and Procedures

- Direct engagement with veterans and their families
- Organizing donation events and public outreach



# The Project Process: Steps and Procedures

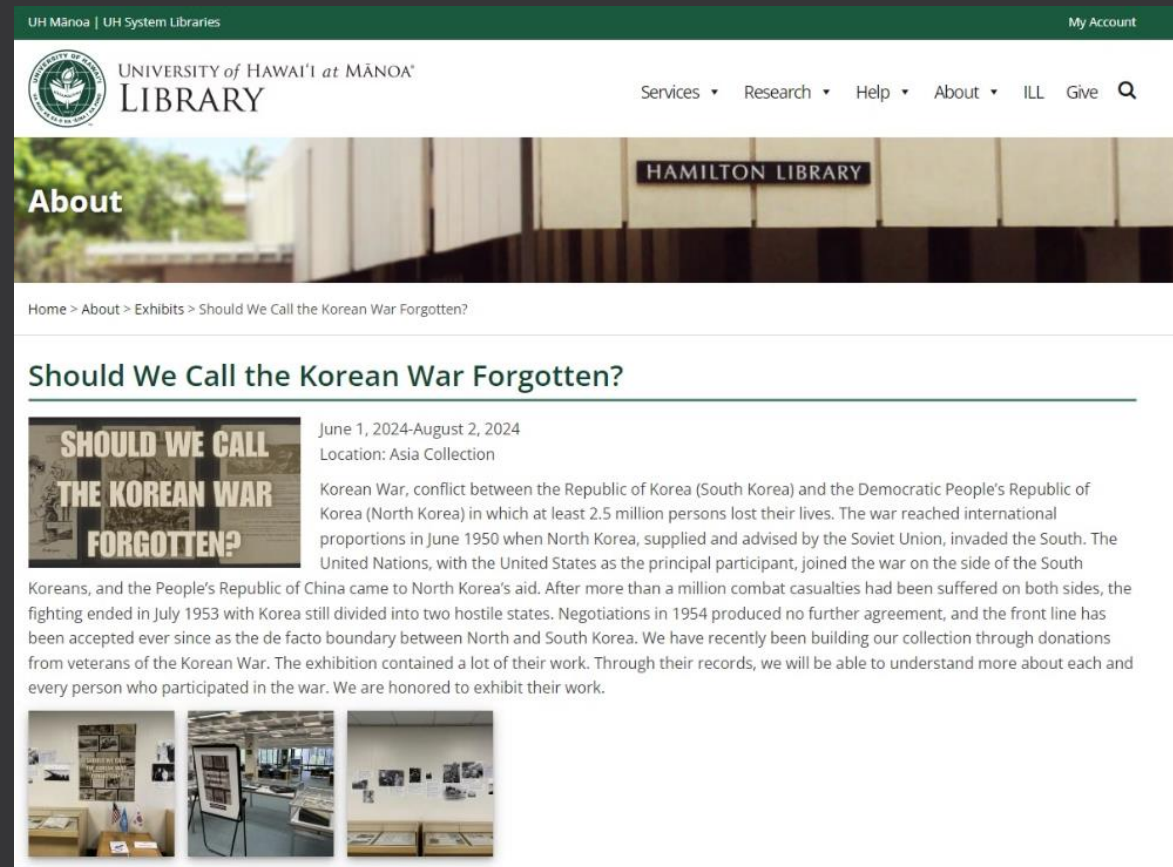
- Collection and cataloging of materials
- Digitization and preservation of materials

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1		Archival Object Basic Information	donor	DONATION_Y EAR	Archival Object Basic Information	Archival Object Basic Information	Container Information	Container Information	Container Information	Container Information	
15	13	Photo with Defense POW	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	사진첩	Box	KIWA2			007 unknown
16	14	Society of the the third infantry division membership poster Rock of the Marne	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	전단첩	Box	KIWA2			008 2024
17	15	Memory about a friend named Henry	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Script	Box	KIWA2			009 unknown
18	16	Revisit Korea	Gary Fukumitsu & Frances Fuk	2024	Item	사진첩	Box	KIWA3			001 2019 / 2022
20	18	Former POW's devotion never wavered	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	뉴스스크립트	Box	KIWA3			003 2004
23	21	KIWA 2018 Reunion Calendar For 2019	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	문서	Box	KIWA3			006 2018
26	24	평화 일포차와 평화 / Peace with Aloha (booklet)	Tommy Tahara / Clifford Chilling	2024	Item	전단첩	Box	KIWA8			007 2021(추경)
28	26	Korean War Veterans 6th Reunion photographs	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	사진첩	Box	KIWA3			013 2002
33	31	Korean War Legacy Foundation - Focus and Overview	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	전단첩	Box	KIWA8			003 2021(추경)
34	32	From the nation of beneficiary To the nation of donor(2022년혜를 입은 나라에서 은혜를 갚는 나라가 된 대한민국) booklet	Tommy Tahara / Kenneth Ajiro	2024	Item	전단첩	Box	KIWA8			004 2022
35	33	US and ROK America 250 booklet	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	전단첩	Box	KIWA8			005 unknown
36	34	2022 ROKN RIMPAC Training Group & 2022 Republic of Korea Navy Cruise Training Task Group Photos	Tommy Tahara / Kenneth Ajiro	2024	Item	사진첩	Box	KIWA3			019 2022
37	35	Group photos 1	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	사진첩	Box	KIWA3			020
38	36	KIWA Hawaii Chapter no. 1 Trip to Geumgansan North Korea Diamond Mountains	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
39	37	Korean War Veterans Revisit to Korea	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
40	38	Korean War Veterans Trip to Boston Pennsylvania Washington	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
41	39	KIWA Kauai Reunion 2008 Punchbowl June 25 event Trip to Jeju Demilitarized zone Trip to Hokkaido	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
42	40	KIWA Hawaii Chapter no. 1 Kauai Reunion May 2002 Trip to Jeju and South Korea April 2003	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
43	41	Korean War Veterans Reunion in Hilo Hawaii	Tommy Tahara	2024	Sub-S	scrapbook	Album	KIWA3			001
44	42	Group photos 2	Tommy Tahara	2024	File	사진첩	Box	KIWA3			021
46	46	The EE-8 Field Telephone	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	군용장비				001	
55	53	KIWA Pin	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			001
56	54	The Good Conduct Medal from Tommy Tahara	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			002
57	55	Korean War service medal	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			003
59	57	2016Cruise Training Task Group Republic of Korea Navy Emblem	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			005
61	59	Korea-US Alliance Foundation Emblem	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			007
62	60	The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration project Group Emblem	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			008
63	61	Korean War Armistice Signing Commemoration July 27 2003 United Nations Command Emblem	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			009
64	62	Army of Occupation Medal	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			010
65	63	CSM US ARMY Emblem	Tommy Tahara	2024	Item	Emblem Med...		KIWA4			011




# The Project Process: Steps and Procedures

- Educational outreach (exhibitions, digital archives)



The screenshot shows the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library website. The header includes the library logo, name, and navigation links for Services, Research, Help, About, ILL, and Give. The main content area features a banner for the Hamilton Library and a breadcrumb trail: Home > About > Exhibits > Should We Call the Korean War Forgotten?. The exhibition title is prominently displayed, followed by the dates (June 1, 2024-August 2, 2024) and location (Asia Collection). A detailed description of the Korean War is provided, highlighting the conflict's scale and the library's role in preserving veterans' records. Three small images at the bottom show the physical exhibition space with informational displays and historical documents.

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## About

Home > About > Exhibits > Should We Call the Korean War Forgotten?

### Should We Call the Korean War Forgotten?

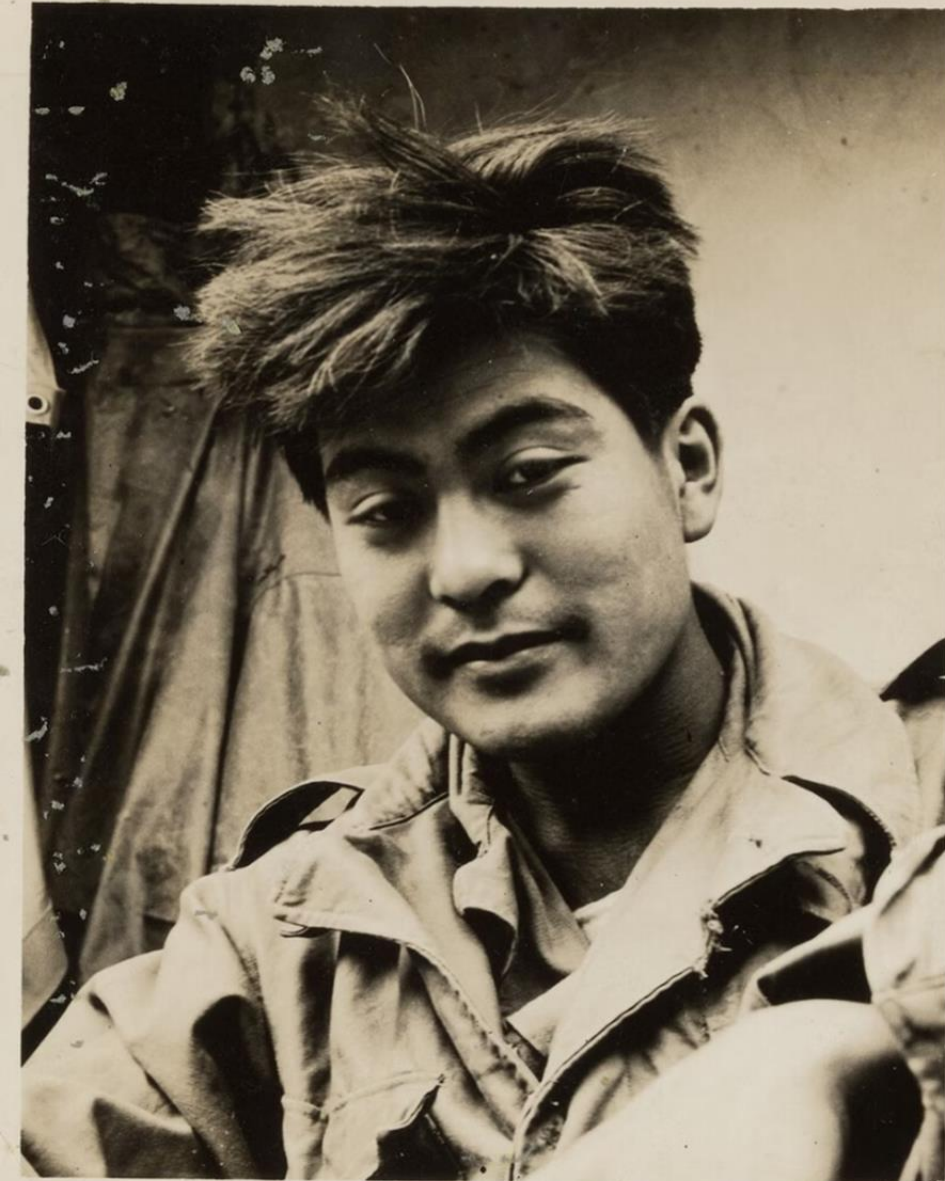
June 1, 2024-August 2, 2024  
Location: Asia Collection

Korean War, conflict between the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in which at least 2.5 million persons lost their lives. The war reached international proportions in June 1950 when North Korea, supplied and advised by the Soviet Union, invaded the South. The United Nations, with the United States as the principal participant, joined the war on the side of the South Koreans, and the People's Republic of China came to North Korea's aid. After more than a million combat casualties had been suffered on both sides, the fighting ended in July 1953 with Korea still divided into two hostile states. Negotiations in 1954 produced no further agreement, and the front line has been accepted ever since as the de facto boundary between North and South Korea. We have recently been building our collection through donations from veterans of the Korean War. The exhibition contained a lot of their work. Through their records, we will be able to understand more about each and every person who participated in the war. We are honored to exhibit their work.



## A Notable Donation: Edward Matayoshi's Photographs

- 135 original photographs donated by Matayoshi's friend, Herbert Kobayashi
- Insight into the life of a combat photographer
- Preserving the individual narratives of veterans



## **Collaborative Partnerships and Community Engagement**

- **Collaboration with KWVA, the Korean Consulate, and local veterans' families**
- **Ensuring veterans' voices are central to the project**
- **Continuous community outreach and relationship-building**

# **Area Collection as Catalysts for Community and Cultural Preservation**

- **Libraries as leaders in preserving marginalized histories**
- **The significance of community-driven preservation projects**
- **Library-community partnerships**

# Acknowledgements



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