



Mutual Publishing  
1215 Center Street, Suite 210  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816  
Ph: (808) 732-1709 \* Fax: (808) 734-4094  
info@mutualpublishing.com • www.mutualpublishing.com

**For immediate release**

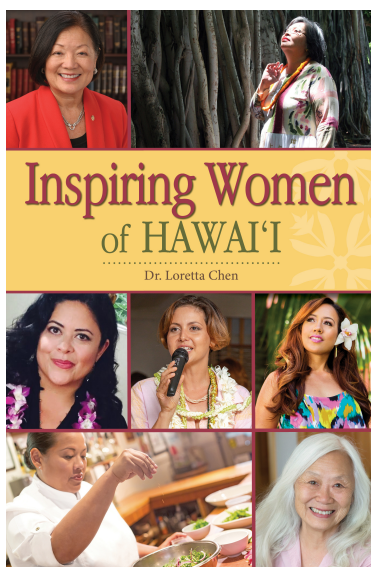
Contact: Jane Gillespie  
Ph: (808) 732-1709  
[jgsh@mutualpublishing.com](mailto:jgsh@mutualpublishing.com)

## **STOP PRESS**

# **Inspiring Women of Hawai'i**

*written by Dr. Loretta Chen*

*Review copy available upon request.*



*Inspiring Women of Hawai'i* gives us a glimpse of the past, a portrait of contemporary Hawai'i and a vision for the future through the eyes of these changemakers.

Honolulu—Mutual Publishing presents *Inspiring Women of Hawai'i*, written by Dr. Loretta Chen, a best-selling author and media personality from Singapore. The book is a celebration of 24 inspiring women who have contributed to the growth and development of the Aloha State determined by their spheres of influence, dedication, and commitment to their craft, industries, and the Hawaiian community. All of them have demonstrated their ability to rise above the ordinary and push the margins as frontier.

Amongst these women, we have playful professors, artistic businesswomen, entrepreneurial musicians, sensitive physicians, analytical writers, cancer survivors, poverty conquerors, nature champions, enthusiastic mothers, happy singletons, amiable divorcees, and so many more. All these women have courageously redefined what it means to be women of the 21st century, and have bravely forged ahead with their dreams—fearing nothing and no one.

These *Inspiring Women* reveal, many for the first time, childhood histories, rags to riches journeys, inspirational stories of overcoming as well as searing anecdotes of #metoo encounters

– from experiences of gender inequities, discrimination (even in the UH system) and harassment faced at work; to a hand on the thigh and even outright asks for sexual favors in this day and age.

The book also captures the multiplicity of views on the current administration, notion of feminism, the role of women in society and showcases their varied perspectives on marriage, motherhood, career and not all without controversy. Popular and well-loved Grammy award winning singer, Raiatea Helm even goes on record to challenge the legitimacy of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate. Indeed, to call this a gripping read would be an understatement.

The featured list of *Inspiring Women* include Marleen Akau, Puanani Burgess, Christine Camp, Shirley Daniel, Leanne Ferrer, Raiatea Helm, Mazie Hirono, Maxine Hong Kingston, Isabella Ellaheh Hughes, Kathryn Whang Inouye, Kim Coco Iwamoto, Connie Lau, Lynette Lo Tom, Lauren Matsumoto, Mary Philpotts McGrath, Catherine Ngo, Kymberly Marcos Pine, Crystal K. Rose, Maya Soetoro-Ng, Jennifer Sabas, Ligaya Stice, Karen Tan, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, and Lee Anne Wong.

This ground-breaking book will certainly spark conversation and undoubtedly play a significant role in helping to raise awareness, dialogue, and hopefully cultivate woke youth leaders who will go on to be empowered women and men alike to take charge and make change in society just as these Inspiring Women have done.

Please do support us in our efforts to celebrate these diverse and *Inspiring Women* who have made Hawai'i the place it is today.

### **About the Author**

Dr. Loretta Chen, is an award-winning creative director, leadership and theatre professor, and best-selling author from Singapore. She holds a PhD and a Certificate in Leadership from Harvard and currently teaches at University of Hawai'i – Leeward Community College.

Nominated as a Member of Parliament and voted one of Asia's most inspiring women, she now calls Hawai'i home with her husband and seven fur babies. Her most recent publication, *Madonnas and Mavericks: Power Women in Singapore* released in November 2017, features the incumbent President and other notable leaders.

**AVAILABLE late October, 2019**

**For interviews with author or any of the Inspiring Women, contact Loretta Chen at email: [loretta@loretta-chen.com](mailto:loretta@loretta-chen.com) or call 808-990-8300**

6 x 9 in. • softcover • full color • 336 pages • \$21.95

---

Mutual Publishing, established in 1974, is one of Hawai'i's largest trade publishing houses. It offers one of the largest selections of Hawaiian titles in the Islands, and a full range of private label services. For more information, visit [www.mutualpublishing.com](http://www.mutualpublishing.com).

## **Advance Praise for *Inspiring Women***

“In speaking with the Inspiring Women of Hawaii, Dr Loretta Chen shines her own light on, as she refers to them, “luminaries”. Her reason for this, according to her introduction, was to build community upon moving to the islands in 2015. The compilation of interviews, however, far surpasses this individual goal, in its re-telling of common struggle, relative to social expectations, and of exceptional courage, relative to servant leadership. These accounts in the hands of Dr Chen are not glorified but made relatable then extended out as an invitation. In this gesture, she aims to inspire us all – to dare, speak, act and revel when and where we can.” -- *Linda L Ikeda; PhD, MSW, LCSW; Non Profit Administrator, Program Evaluator, Academic*

“What an accomplishment! We have to all support this endeavor!”-- *Corey Adler, PhD, Professor of Women’s Studies, Leeward Community College*

“Loretta has established a firm reputation as a scholar, director and superb human being. By this, I mean she is graphic, courageous and a no-nonsense Singaporean who has lived her life the way she wants. Few Singaporeans can claim such. Now this Inspiring Woman decides to take us on a powerful journey to Hawaii to meet other like-minded women. This book can only mesmerize and in the process, show us new ways of understanding. This book is a must read! -- *Dr Kirpal Singh, Director of the Wee Kim Wee Center, Singapore Management University.*