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## NO SWORD TO BURY

### JAPANESE AMERICANS IN HAWAII DURING WORLD WAR II

Author's Talk and Book Signing by Franklin Odo  
Presented by Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project  
Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 7:00 pm  
Northwest Asian American Theatre 409 Seventh Avenue South, Seattle

Co-sponsored by the Wing Luke Asian Museum and  
the Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington

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*"Franklin Odo has captured with much warmth and poignancy the emotions of men who, though abandoned by their country, loved this country and proved it by repeatedly standing in harm's way to defend it." —Senator Daniel K. Inouye*

When bombs rained down on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Japanese American college students were among the many young men enrolled in ROTC and were called upon to defend the islands immediately after the attack. In a matter of weeks, however, the military government questioned their loyalty and disarmed them. In *No Sword to Bury*, Franklin Odo places the largely untold story of the wartime experience of these young men in the context of the community created by their immigrant families and its relationship to the larger, white-dominated society. At the heart of the book are vivid oral histories that recall the young men's service on the home front in the Varsity Victory Volunteers, a non-military group dedicated to public works, as well as in the segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team that fought in Europe and the Military Intelligence Service. Odo shows how their wartime experiences and their postwar success in business and politics contributed to the simplistic view of Japanese Americans as a model minority in Hawai'i and glossed over significant differences in their lives and perspectives. *No Sword to Bury* captures a critical moment in the formation of ethnic identity among the first generation of Americans of Japanese descent (the *nisei*) and chronicles their contributions during the war.

**Franklin Odo** is Director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution. He was professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawaii and a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Hunter College, Princeton University, and Columbia University. Dr. Odo received his MA in East Asia Regional Studies from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Japanese history from Princeton University. He edited the *Columbia Documentary History of Asian Americans* (Columbia University Press, 2002).

*For information, contact Densho at 206-320-0095 or [info@densho.org](mailto:info@densho.org). No ticket is required. Donations are welcome. Densho (meaning "to pass on to future generations") is a registered nonprofit organization that honors and preserves Japanese American history. Visit the Densho website at [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org) to view video life histories, photos and artifacts, and teaching materials promoting respect for the civil liberties of all people.*