



*The Hawaii Japanese Center (HJC), in partnership with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), proudly presents a program and book signing with historian and author Barbara F. Kawakami on **Saturday, April 1, at 2 p.m.** Kawakami's recently released "Picture Bride Stories" received the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association's 2016-2017 Award for Adult Non-Fiction.*

During the 1885 to 1924 immigration period of sugar plantation laborers from Japan to Hawaii, many single men sent for brides to join them in Hawaii when it became apparent that they would not be returning to Japan. More than 20,000 of these "picture brides" made the long journey from Japan to marry husbands whom they knew only through photographs and correspondence exchanged between them or their families.

Based on her interviews with 16 of these women, Kawakami's *Picture Bride Stories* is a poignant collection that recounts the lives these women led upon settling in a strange new land. Although these remarkable women are gone, their legacy lives on in their children, grandchildren, and succeeding generations.



The program will include a performance of a *holehole bushi* dance number by Hawaii Island's Tsukikage Odorikai and a screening of excerpts of interviews with some of the women that Kawakami conducted for PBS Hawaii's Rice & Roses television series years ago. These interviews are shown courtesy of the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR), University of Hawaii West Oahu—Chris Conybeare, Producer/Writer; Joy Chong-Stannard, Director/Editor.



Following her talk, Kawakami will be available to autograph her books. *Picture Bride Stories* (328 pages, hardbound, University of Hawaii Press) will be available for sale at the event for \$40, including tax. (Hawaii Japanese Center members receive a 10% discount.)



This program is sponsored by Japanese Culture Center of Hawaii – with funding by The Hiroaki, Elaine and Lawrence Kono Foundation – in partnership with the Hawaii Japanese Center.

For more information, please contact the Hawaii Japanese Center, 751 Kanoelehua Ave, Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Email: contact@hawaiijapanesecenter.com • Ph: 808.934.9611 • HJC is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.