

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER TO HOST
25TH ANNUAL EVENING OF ALOHA GALA DINNER**
**Milestone celebration honors Japanese American World War II veterans and
launches the next chapter of new programming and initiatives**

LOS ANGELES (SEPT. 4, 2026) — Go For Broke National Education Center will host the **25th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in downtown Los Angeles**. The hallmark community event will serve as both a celebration and call to action — honoring the 33,000 Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) men and women who served during World War II while inspiring all Americans to protect the freedoms and liberties the Nisei soldiers fought for on the war front and at home.

Over the past three decades, Go For Broke National Education Center has diligently preserved the first-person voices of the World War II Nisei soldiers and shared their legacy across the nation with those largely unfamiliar with this remarkable chapter in U.S. history. The Evening of Aloha Gala provides an opportunity to acknowledge the organization's founding Nisei veterans' vision to ensure that their courage, service, and sacrifice is remembered as an important American story with continued relevance to today's social dynamics.

The Gala is anticipated to again draw over 500 guests consisting of Nisei veterans and their descendants, GFBNEC leadership and supporters, and community and business leaders. The evening will feature veterans' voices from the Hanashi Oral History Collection, along with traditional gala elements such as the **Soldier's Memorial Table, Nisei Veteran Roll Call, "In Memoriam"** listing, and the **7th Annual Living Nisei World War II Veteran Photo Tribute**. The program will highlight not only the impact of the organization's work since its inception but also present the new chapter GFBNEC is embarking on with the completion of the Go For Broke Plaza in early 2027. This development will provide 248 affordable housing units, retail space, and a 10,000-square-foot permanent home for GFBNEC's expanded programming and initiatives.

"I am especially excited about this year's gala as it marks an exciting, pivotal moment for our organization, the Nisei veterans and their families, and our community," said Dr. Mitch Maki, president and CEO of Go For Broke National Center. "The completion of the Go For Broke Plaza not only helps fulfill the founding veterans' dream of a permanent education center, but it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring this incredible American story to a much broader scale. It is an honor to be able to significantly expand our work educating and sharing their legacy with audiences from across the nation, in particular as our nation remains challenged by current issues surrounding civil liberties, social justice, and equality."

The Evening of Aloha Gala is GFBNEC's primary annual fundraiser and marks the yearly launch of the "Fund the Future" campaign. With continued threats to the accessibility to the full Japanese American World War II experience, GFBNEC's work to preserve and share these narratives has never been more urgent.

A signature feature of the Gala is the specially prepared menu by Chef Roy Yamaguchi, founder and owner of Roy's Restaurants Worldwide and member of GFBNEC's board of directors, and Chef Andreas Nieto and the Westin Bonaventure Hotel culinary team. Long-time supporter King's Hawaiian Bakery and Restaurant provides an exclusive dessert created by Pastry Chef Heather Campbell.

Gala sponsorships, tickets, and "Fund the Future" donations can be made at goforbroke.org/eveningofaloha. All contributions provide direct support for GFBNEC's vital educational programming and outreach to younger, diverse audiences from coast to coast. For more information, email development@goforbroke.org or call (310) 328-0907.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2026
- **Time:** Registration and silent auction at 4:00 P.M.; dinner and program at 6:00 P.M.
- **Location:** Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, downtown Los Angeles
- **Tickets and Donations:** Available at goforbroke.org/eveningofaloha
- **More Information:** development@goforbroke.org or (310) 328-0907

The 2026 Evening of Aloha Gala major sponsors include: **Ruby Sponsor** – US Bank; **Emerald Sponsors** – MUFG Bank, Ltd., Rick & Patee Shinto and Family, and Sugimoto Family Foundation; **Platinum Sponsors** – King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant, Nikki Kodama & Family, The Pacific Bridge Companies, and Joyce Yamane & Stephen Waite in memory of Kazuo & Mary Yamane; and **Gold Sponsors** – Scott & Susan Takahashi and Tokuji Yoshihashi Family.



Note to Media

"Go For Broke" was the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawai'i and the mainland. The term was Hawaiian Pidgin slang for "shooting the works," or risking everything for the big win in gambling — as the Nisei soldiers did while fighting in the field in World War II and facing prejudice at home in the U.S.

About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) veterans' core values of courage, service, sacrifice,

equality, humility, and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the interactive GFBNEC's "Defining Courage" exhibition in downtown Los Angeles, as well as extensive oral histories and archives, education programs, traveling exhibitions, and other key initiatives such as the National Torchbearer Program and the Go For Broke Journalism Institute. To learn more, visit goforbroke.org.

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