

VOICES: U.N. Day is Oct. 24. Why do you feel we should continue supporting the United Nations?

Members from Hawaii joint territories respond:

I am a volunteer with the U.N. Association–Hawaii Division. U.N. associations nationwide provide forums to inform the public about the United Nations and the many global issues it addresses. The United Nations with its 185 member nations serves as an international forum for dialogues, helps to maintain peace in the world and parallels our Buddhist mission for kosen-rufu. I was so happy when CNN owner Ted Turner donated \$1 billion. I hope this will help Americans realize how important supporting the United Nations is for the helping the peoples of the world and for the sake of peace in the world.

— SALLY OKAZAKI, Honolulu

I attended a U.N.A.–Hawaii Division meeting where the speakers talked about the elimination of land mines. It is an important topic for the United Nations and for U.N. associations across the country. The land mine is a silent killer. It lays in wait for years and when stepped on maims the adult victims and usually kills little children. I was so happy when Princess Diana made the land mine issue one of her causes and brought world response to work to eliminate this tragic legacy. Most recently, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded for the cause of eliminating land mines! The United Nations is a most valuable global organization, and I heartily support it.

— MINAKO NAKAJIMA, Honolulu

To even consider such a satanic act as the detonation of nuclear weapons shows a total lack of respect for the environment as well as for human life. Therefore, the issue of nuclear disarmament, while extremely important, falls within the larger issue of global environmental problems. The United Nations is limited by the selfinterest of sovereign nations. But we can transcend national interest by, as SGI President Ikeda says in his 17th peace proposal, “taking advantage of the constructive energies of NGOs in matters of policy-making.” Thus, the United Nations is moving in the direction of reform, and while far from perfect, can serve as a forum for change on a global scale.

— ROY BRUNSON, Honolulu

I had not paid much attention to the United Nations and its functions until this September, when I participated in an SGI youth conference in Japan. SGI President Ikeda was honored for his work for peace by the World Federation of the U. N. Associations. President Ikeda has consistently made anti-nuclear peace proposals to the United Nations. He encouraged the youth “to keep a vigilant eye on the world leaders” and also encouraged us to support the United Nations despite its problems. I came to a better understanding of why he really supports the United Nations. It is the only international forum where dialogue can take place and possibly prevent war from breaking out, so we don’t destroy the planet and we can have a future!

— BRYAN ROONEY, Honolulu

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