

# Michael Lim

"True wealth lies in helping others and sharing that wealth with other people."



## About Michael Lim

Michael Lim is a musician that communicates through beautiful music. Michael Lim plays violin with the Hawaii Symphony orchestra. He also teaches music in middle school and high school.

He has special great-grandparents. From the moment he immigrated to Hawaii at the age of 26 until he passed away at 70, Won-Kiu Ahn gave everything he had to fight for his country's independence and the rights for Korean immigrants in Hawaii. Chung Song Ahn, a female leader who was no less courageous and spirited than her husband.

## Historical Information



1. Three members of Michael Lim's ancestors were selected among 27 notable Koreans by the centennial committee in 2002, in celebration of 100 years of Korean immigration to Hawaii. Why were they selected?

- Won-Kiu Ahn, Michael Lim's great-grandfather, originally came to Hawaii as a plantation worker. He later became a successful businessman, founded the Korean National Association, raised money for the independence movement, and helped many Korean immigrants in Hawaii.

- Chung Song Ahn, Michael Lim's great-grandmother, contributed significantly to the Korean community in Hawaii through her work as a teacher and volunteer.

- Choon Ho Lim, Michael Lim's great-grandfather (father's father), also arrived in Hawaii to work on the plantation. He later became a pastor and was instrumental in advocating for better working conditions for Korean plantation workers and supporting their success in Hawaii.

2. What is the Korean independence movement that Michael Lim's great-grandparents supported?

- The Korean independence movement was a series of diplomatic and militant efforts aimed at liberating Korea from Japanese rule. It began in the late 19th or early 20th century and culminated with Japan's surrender in 1945.

3. Why did Korean immigrants in Hawaii think educating their children was pivotal?

- Korean immigration to Hawaii stopped in June 1905. Soon after that Korea was forced to sign the Treaty of 1905 and was annexed by Japan\*. Then, they came to realization that they had lost their country because people were uneducated and unenlightened.

*\* In 1905, diplomatic sovereignty of Korea was deprived, and in 1907, Japan effectively annexed Korea.*

- The first school, Aliiolani Elementary School, for Korean immigrants in Hawaii was established in 1906. Started with funding from the Methodist church and donations from Korean immigrants, the school was established as 'The Korean Christian Institute' the following year by Dr. Syngman Rhee. Education was the key to regaining the homeland. Soon after, a Korean language school was established with donations for the children to learn their mother tongue.

