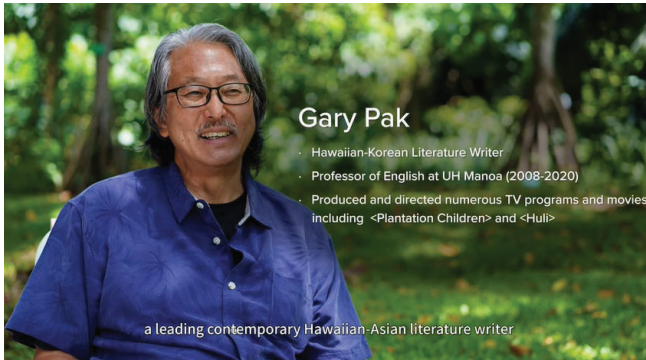


# Gary Pak

"We should always love people. We always have to think about the love for humanity; to help out people."



## About Gary Pak

Gary Pak is a leading contemporary Hawaiian-Asian literature writer. He taught English literature at the University of Hawaii and is also a documentary writer and human rights activist. He is a descendant of one of the first Korean immigrants, a picture bride. One of his works is the 'Plantation Children' oral history project. He interviewed over 20 second-generation Koreans in Hawaii to preserve their history, so the next generations can understand them.

## Historical Information



1. How and why did the picture brides come to Hawaii?

- Plantation workers in Hawaii were lonely, and they wanted to start families. However, it was difficult for them to find wives, so they paid 'picture marriage brokers' to bring brides from Korea. Between 1910 and 1924, approximately 700 Korean women, known as 'picture brides,'\* came to Hawaii in hopes of improving their lives. However, many of these brides found that the men they had agreed to marry were often quite different from the strong and youthful figures depicted in the photographs.

\* *Picture bride: were young east asian women who traveled from their homes to marry farm workers around the world, based solely on each other's pictures.*

- The lives of picture brides were challenging. Many arrived in Hawaii to find their husbands old and sick, leading them to take on the responsibilities of providing for and raising their families. They had to earn money and care for their children simultaneously.



2. How were the working conditions for plantation workers?

- Gary's grandfather, a plantation worker, earned 18 dollars a month while working 6 days a week for 12 hours a day. Once they started working, they were not allowed to smoke or even stretch their backs. The workers were subjected to harsh conditions, akin to wage slavery.



3. How did the Korean diaspora in Hawaii begin?

- When Gary's grandparents first arrived in Hawaii, there were relatively few Koreans on the islands. However, as they settled in, they introduced their traditions, culture, and cuisine. These contributions enriched the local culture and heightened awareness of Korea among the residents of Hawaii.