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Title: Gary Yamagiwa Interview
Narrator: Gary Yamagiwa
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
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<Begin Segment 9>

- AT: 30:39 Is testimonies that you were hearing. Did your parents testify?
- GY: 30:45 No, but the people I listened to were people I knew from the community.
- AT: 30:54 Do you remember any of those?
- GY: 30:58 Well, I believe Alice, she's testifying. I think Chei told me. He told me. Yeah, she testified, you know, these are people that, you know, we're a community leaders, so you know, you know, but then you're hearing things that you've never heard. William Kimura. So not only was it a, a story that was difficult to listen to, but you know, it became a real. When, you know, the people that
- AT: 31:52 Are there any of those stories that have stuck with you?
- GY: 31:56 Um, no, because I think in a lot of ways it's almost the same story being told over and over. People from different places. No, they'd have different family situations, but it probably as a whole ah resonated, so. Terrible. Terrible justice.
- AT: 32:49 I think you're the first person I've spoken to who is actually at the hearings. Can you tell me more about what it was like, what the arrangement is? Wasn't just a single day.
- GY: 33:03 Uh, I think it was a couple of days, big room packed, chairs and then there's a table in front and a microphone and it was crowded. I ended up just standing and listening. You know, I thought how brave they are.
- AT: 33:37 So this was um, something that was open to the public?
- GY: 33:41 Yes. Open to the public, it was.

AT: 33:45 And the people who were there, did you know most of the people in the room?

GY: 33:53 No, there were many, many people there. I know a lot of people. And then there were other people that I'm sure we're just curious. You know, it was ah very powerful.

AT: 34:16 And was it just the one day that you went or did you go?

GY: 34:19 I think I went a couple of days. Yes.

AT: 34:25 Did you go alone?

GY: 34:26 I did go alone.

AT: 34:35 Well, thank you for sharing that. Like I said, we haven't spoken to anyone who was actually there.

GY: 34:52 I don't know if I would have gone if I didn't have a friendship with Alice. You know, you hear about it and say, well things are happening. This thing is happening. I still hear her, "You better go here."

AT: 35:16 How do you think things would be different for you? You haven't gone if you didn't have that relationship.

GY: 35:24 Oh, I have no idea how things will be different. I imagine they would have been very different. I know I wouldn't be sitting here right now.

AT: 35:41 Sounds like it was almost like an awakening.

GY: 35:44 It was, it also, um, it really changed my view, of ah, what government is and what people have to do to fight bad government. This anger just changed my view of what it means to live in this country.

AT: 36:41 When you look at the current political climate. You know, given this experience that you have and some of the things that you're saying it taught you. Do you, do you think something like this could ever happen again or, or whether I guess I'm just curious about your own reflections about

GY: 37:24 To a degree, what happened then is happening now. I mean, just the kind of talk, you're hearing from the leaders of the government. Tells you you have to be vigilant. Yeah, sure. Same thing could happen. You know, it's uh, it's like the lessons of the

past last as long as you're ah memory allows it then then. So
everything is all brand new.

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