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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview  
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
Location: Kailua, Hawai'i  
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**<Begin Segment 9>**

NW: So, do you think that they were thoughtless, so they didn't really think anything about the war or do you think they had some ideas about what might happen or what could wrong?

YF: No, they didn't have, no, they thought war is war, I guess. Or, they may have, but they didn't tell me. My uncle only said that, oh, he's so lucky.

NW: Because he won't be placed in internment camp . . .

YF: He didn't have any communication then, when the war started, but he knew war was going to happen, they had, you know, the government in Japan had said it was going to be very very hard for you to live there, you know, because you had helped the Navy, you know? Japanese Navy so much that the first target, first thing they're going to do is just grab you, you know. And was all the, the thing that all the spys were there, in his hotel because not too many Japanese hotels. It was only Olympic which is 110 rooms or something, that's bigger than another one in Los Angeles, Miyako, had only two and lot of them were staying in my uncle's hotel, you know? It's gonna, you know, the admirals, and all kind of people, so he was targeted.

NW: Right. Weren't you worried about your parents, though? They were still back in Hawai'i, right? And so were your siblings. What did you think?

YF: I wasn't worried because they bombed, what you call it?

NW: Pearl Harbor?

YF: Pearl Harbor is far from where Kahuku is.

NW: But, I mean, most people in Hawai'i, Japanese and Japanese Americans weren't sent to relocation camps but there are some leaders of local communities who were sent out to the mainland, didn't you worry about them?

YF: No, I wasn't, I mean, I thought of it, but I wasn't really worried. I don't know. I was too young to worry about it, I think. It didn't concern me like, you know. The funny thing is, I don't know, from 10 to 18, I never worried about my family or I didn't have communication when the war started. I never worried because I figured "Why? They're gonna be safe with all of them, you know?" And because they're not in Honolulu, you know, when you're way in the country, you don't have, and my auntie and uncle, they made the most of it. They had some land which

they had to let go because the farmers, their [?] got affected, “You cannot hold unless you’re a farmer, you cannot hang onto your land, you know, farmland.” So he sold to his longtime farmer that you know, that he was good friend with, [whom] he really, really liked, so cheap, you know? Farmers were so lucky, that’s what [you] hear, the farmer’s richer than the landload. But . . . and he had some things, another land. Yeah, he sold that the 10 years, 12 years that they stayed because he doesn’t have a job, you know, he did community work, a lot of community work, but he didn’t have a job. And his money, what they did is they, the Japanese government, when you went to Japan and he had so much money, he did froze all the money and they give, you allow, only 500 yen or whatever, you know, just to live. When the war ended, he got reevaluation of money, because they gave him 360 to one dollar. His stacks of dollars became so little, few thousand yen, you know? And that was really hard to live.

NW: I’m sure.

YF: And, because, his down payment, his money that he got from the hotel, you know, all was in the bank. He didn’t know they were gonna freeze it and then the wartime, you know, you can’t take the money out, can’t buy anything, and you only got to live modestly, you know. It’s kinda a lot of strain, but he didn’t complain, my auntie didn’t complain. He thought maybe he was going to get shot anyway, in America, you know?

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