

President's Message

Hawai'i State Organization,

As we come to the close of this biennium, I want to congratulate you all for making it through what was probably the most challenging fifteen months of our personal and professional lives. Although we are not out of the woods yet, I think we should take some time to reflect on how far we have come.



The theme of the 2019–2021 biennium was *Mālamalama*—"the light of knowledge, clarity of thinking or explanation, enlightenment, shining, radiant." My goal was for our society to grow in knowledge, membership, and leadership over the two years. I believe we did accomplish our goal as I witnessed members caring for themselves, sisters, and the society. *Mālamalama* was not achieved alone. It required all of us to do our part. If you took a day off to refresh and rejuvenate yourself, you did your part. If you joined one DKG Zoom meeting over the last fifteen months, you did your part. If you reached out with a phone call, text, or email to check on one sister, you did your part. In fact, if you are even reading this, you are doing your part.

In 2020, Hawai'i State events had record-setting attendance rates at both the Leadership Development Workshop in June and the Fall Conference in October, with representation from all fourteen chapters. In 2021, we have two more online conferences: the Spring Conference on June 5 and the Fall Forum on October 23. After four statewide events entirely online, many questions arise about future possibilities.

As we transition out of this pandemic, we will need your continued support to help the society continue to grow and learn from this experience. Like a classroom lesson, we need to evaluate our outcomes. What will we keep? What will we change moving forward? Share your voices with your sisters. Let us continue to *mālamalama* ourselves, our sisters, and our society.

Mahalo for your support! Although I do not believe we have heard that last of "You're muted," I have hope that we will be able to see each other in person soon.

Have a great summer!



Lori Furoyama, Hawai'i State President

A Cup of Cheer

This school year has been like none other with changes and challenges around every corner. To support our fellow educators, Rho Chapter took *A Cup of Cheer* to several West Hawai'i schools.

A Cup of Cheer is a partnership with the State Department of Education, Hokupa'a, and Rho Chapter.



Members greeted teachers and staff with smiles, cheers, coffee, tea, snacks, gifts, and signs to show our appreciation. We also distributed a list of self-care ideas and resources.

Teachers responded with smiles, giggles, and even some tears. We are grateful that our little gesture was greatly appreciated and much needed.

*J. Personius, N. Jadallah, S. Taosaka
Rho Membership Committee*

Mark Your Calendars: June 5, 2021 Hawai'i State Spring Conference

Our theme, "*Pūpūkahi i Holomua: Unite to Move Forward*" reflects resilience in an unprecedented year of challenges and our continued work to support educators and students. The event on June 5 from 8:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. is virtual and free. Registration details available soon at <http://deltakappagammahi.org>. Deadline to register is May 22.

Vote on June 5: Candidates for Office 2021–2023 Biennium

President: Lori Furoyama, Mu

Current Position: State President

Platform: Envisions partnering across states and regions to share ideas and resources

1st Vice-President: Lisa Nagamine, Theta

Current Position: State 1st Vice-President

Platform: Envisions every member feeling valued by collaboratively working together, growing, and developing

2nd Vice-President: Robyn Awa, Beta

Current Position: State Secretary

Platform: Envisions supporting members in building and maintaining a society of excellence through personal and professional growth

Secretary: Mohala Boncales, Mu

Current Position: Communications—Webmaster

Platform: Envisions that chapter sharing through communication decreases silos and creates a united state organization

Election of Hawai'i State officers takes place during the Spring Conference business meeting. Upon taking office, the Executive Board selects the Treasurer and Executive Secretary.

Nominations Committee, S. Domion

Renew Dues for New Fiscal Year

Chapter treasurers have started collecting dues for the new fiscal year 2021–2022 which begins on July 1. Members are to submit dues to their treasurer who records and reports payments to International using the online processing system. State Treasurer Adele Wada will contact chapter treasurers with additional requirements to close the current fiscal year.

Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners

The Lucille Hodgins Selective Recruitment Grant is open to any student pursuing a career in education. Two grants of \$1000 are awarded.

E ho'omaika'i to Skye Yasuda. Skye is working on an Associate Degree in Education at Leeward Community College and plans to continue her studies in the Elementary Education and Multilingual Learning Dual Licensure Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Skye served as both Secretary and President in the student organization of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and continues to demonstrate commitment and dedication to becoming an educator for our youth.



E ho'omaika'i to Diana Sellner.

Diana is at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa working on her Master's Degree with a focus on Elementary Education. She earned a degree from Willamette University in Exercise Science and

has created curriculum and how-to guides for implementing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) skills into the classroom. She teaches CPR and AED skills across communities on O'ahu for kupuna and keiki. Diane looks forward to working here and abroad to shape the future of keiki around the world.

The Josephine E. Day Perpetual Scholarship Fund is supported by gifts from individuals and chapters. It provides stipends to active members who desire to pursue National Board Certification.

E ho'omaika'i to Karla Viviana Martinez, member of Rho Chapter. Karla is currently an English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 9–12 and an English Language Learner Coordinator at Konawaena High School. She established an off-site tutoring center to sustain community partnerships and relationships, and co-organizes parent events with these partners.



Her work towards National Board Certification will enhance her involvement with students and the community, and contribute to the growth of herself and those whom she serves.

Scholarship Committee, R. Kopp and A. Mahi, Co-Chairs 2

“Go for Broke Soldiers” Commemorative Stamp

A new postage stamp available on June 3 features Shiroku “Whitey” Yamamoto, the foster son of Elvis and Mary Rhoads. Mary Rhoads was one of seven charter members initiated into DKG in 1949 to establish a state organization in Hawai‘i.

While at Laupahoehoe School, the couple adopted the orphaned Whitey. Abandoned by his mother when he was three months old and raised by his father who was an independent sugar cane cultivator, Whitey quit Laupahoehoe School during the tenth grade to take care of his ill father. When his father died in 1941, Whitey joined the Rhoads’ family. He never forgot the kindness of the Rhoads whom he called “Mom” and “Dad.”

Whitey served as a jeep driver in the 442nd Antitank Company, participated in the courageous rescue of the Texas 36th Infantry Division “Lost Battalion” in the Vosges Mountains, and trained as a parajumper for the D-Day invasion of southern France. After returning from the war, he completed his education at Leilehua High School where his foster parents, Elvis Rhoads, then served as principal, and Mary Rhoads as teacher.

Whitey’s pictorial autobiography and oral history are on the website <http://nisei.hawaii.edu>

The “Go for Broke” stamp symbolizes the Niseis’ loyalty as American citizens through service in the U.S. military during the war despite racial prejudice against them. Whitey also represents a life that was nurtured and touched by two caring and giving educators. (<https://niseistamp.org/>)

H. Hasegawa, Theta

Support Early Educators—Create A Buzz about DKG

As the 2019–2021 biennium ends, the Supporting Early Educators (SEE) Initiative State Committee is looking to the future. Hawai‘i State provides support for the Department of Education Hawai‘i Teacher Induction Center (HTIC). SEE chapter linkers are paired with HTIC Program Coordinators of Complex Areas that chapters have “adopted.”

Chapter interest and participation in the SEE Initiative remains strong. Actual activities and member participation have been adversely affected by COVID-19 safety guidelines. We anticipate that activity and participation will grow as guidelines are eased.

The strength of our SEE Initiative is our chapter linkers, who met this year via Zoom for the first time. There is good potential for chapter linkers to SEE each other to strengthen their own planning and leadership skills.

Chapter linkers shared ideas for teacher appreciation and encouragement gifts; support at complex-area meetings and professional development; donation of school supplies; special goody bags for lucky number prizes; professional magazines and books; professional development via Zoom; and mentoring and Zoom meetings with HTIC program coordinators.

The SEE State Committee continues to believe that rich support for early educators is a way to bring credibility to Hawai‘i State DKG. We will SEE what tomorrow will bring!

SEE Initiative Committee, J. Matsuo, Chair



With sadness and great love, Epsilon Chapter remembers **Patricia Ann Park** (1944–2021). Pat saw all of her Epsilon sisters as leaders. She would not let anyone forget that and would smile, laugh, and then give you something to be in charge of.

Pat always took care of a friend and encouraged her friends to take leadership roles, while continuing on her own journey. She joined Epsilon in 1985 and served in leadership roles not only with the chapter but also with the greater DKG community as Hawai‘i State President, Southwest Regional Director, and International Administrative Board and committee member.



Pat believed in a greater purpose and that the journey was always full of educational moments. Epsilon Chapter is grateful that we were a part of that greater purpose and shared journey.

S. Conching, Epsilon President

Results Are In: U.S. Forum Survey

The Hawai'i State U.S. Forum Ad Hoc Committee completed a statewide survey on legislative topics of interest to members. The responses will help the Committee plan events and present information about these issues as we take action in the fields of education, women, and children.

The survey, which was completed on April 15, 2021, revealed that Gun Violence and Violence Against Women are of interest to over 14% of the respondents; Cyberbullying to 13%; Equal Pay for Women and Work to 12%; and Chemical Contamination of Soil or Water to almost 11% of respondents. Other issues such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, immigration, discrimination by government, voter suppression, and funding for free community college each received about 6%–7% of the votes.

The Ad Hoc Committee is looking for expert community speakers to present at informational meetings and would welcome help with planning. Please contact Chair Gwen Mau at maug006@gmail.com.

Zeta Chapter's Newest Member

Elaine Higa started with the State Department of Education in 2008 at Waiākea Elementary as a fifth-grade teacher, then moved to Kea'au Elementary as teacher and academic coach.

Now in her fourth year as District Resource Teacher supporting the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, Elaine was the 2021 Teacher of the Year for the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pahoa Complex area. Recently, she has been involved with organizing the COVID-19 vaccinations for DOE employees. We are so excited to welcome such an exemplary educator to our chapter!

Red Roses



The Honolulu Orchid Society honored **Ruth Chun** as Orchidist of the Decade. Her accomplishments are Society President for six years; author of articles for the orchid journal *Na Okika O Hawai'i*; accredited judge for local, regional, and national events; and senior judge for the American Orchid Society. Well respected by colleagues, friends and nursery owners, Ruth has always been Theta's "go-to" expert on anything orchid.

Principal **Stacey Bello** of Zeta Chapter is the new principal of Kea'au Elementary School of the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pahoa Complex area. Previously she served as principal of Keaukaha Elementary School for over seven years.

Blooming Roses

In 2020 chapters nominated a member with ten or fewer years of membership and outstanding service to the Society for the first annual blooming rose award.



Stephanie Grande-Misaki, Iota



Christine Putzulu, Epsilon



Elizabeth Okamoto, Alpha

"Catch the Spirit" at an International Conference

DKG: A World of Opportunities, Contributions, Impact

Portland, Oregon, July 7–10, 2021

Two Pre-Conference Workshops: Robert's Rules Made Easy and A Team Approach to Invigorate Your Chapter

San Antonio, Texas, July 22–24, 2021

Event information and schedule: <https://www.dkg.org>



Congratulations to Epsilon Treasurer, Heather Omori, and husband Joe. An absolute gorgeous gift to us all!