DKG
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
Hawai'i State Organization

Aloha i ke Akea

May 2026

VOL. LX NO. 3



President's Message

Submitted by **Ellen Tanoura**
DKG Hawai`i State Organization President

Dear Hawai'i State DKG Members,
How quickly the first year of the 2025–2027 biennium is coming to an end! It's almost an oxymoron because, for most of you, the last meeting is both a celebration of the installation of your 2026–2028 chapter officers and a new beginning for inducted members. It is also time for the International Convention, themed "Elevate, Embrace, Empower." Certainly, the 2025–2027 Hawai`i State theme, "The Moment of Lift," should guide you as you look for ways to give every member a "lift" through involvement. For ease of discussion, I will enumerate the following major items:

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Spring Comvention
Committee Reports
Red Roses
White Roses
Chapter Udates
International Updates
Snapshots
Save the Date
Editor's Corner

Outgoing Chapter Officers: I would be remiss if I did not thank the chapter officers and chapter chairpersons who served and led during the 2024–2026 biennium. Your every act of leadership and your responses to calls for action by state committee chairs, editors, and state officers were deeply appreciated. Your efforts kept our organization alive and worthwhile. For our members, every action you took on behalf of DKG made the organization stronger.

Spring Convention, April 18, 2026: Thank you, Zeta Chapter, for a successful conference in Hilo. It was filled with new learning opportunities, including AI, painting, self-defense, and journaling. All who attended were touched by the talented educators from the Big Island, as well as the unique local flavors and treats. Thank you to the state officers and committee chairs who provided the data necessary to keep our chapters informed and in sync with International DKG. Finally, thank you to the 50 members from across the state who were in attendance.

Leadership Development Workshop 2026 (Saturday, June 6, 9:00–1:00 via Zoom): Our overarching focus will be officer training and providing time for chapter executive officers to meet and plan. Registration is now open—incoming officers, this is a "must-attend" event. Not only will you receive training for your specific role, but you will also connect with teams from across Hawai`i State. State officers will provide the "how-to's" of your office and allow time for dialogue regarding your plans for the biennium's major events and activities. While you must register individually, your executive board may choose to meet in a common location to facilitate dialogue during and after the formal LDW. Other members, such as chapter committee chairs, are also encouraged to attend.

International Convention, June 30–July 4 (Aurora, Colorado): There is still time to join the six of us who are attending: **Sharon Inamine**, **Kathy Sakuda**, **Donna Shiroma**, **Mollie Sperry**, **Fay Toyama**, and **Ellen Tanoura**. If you are attending and have not let me know, please do so; we don't want to

Cont'd – President's Message

leave anyone "out of the loop." This convention is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the organization and meet the people who support us. Most importantly, we will make new friends and engage face-to-face with our leadership.

As we move into summer, planning is key—that is my primary message. Personally, in addition to DKG, I have a husband for whom I must be a leader in exercise and healthy eating. I will also be caring for my five-year-old granddaughter, who is working through some speech challenges; "Grandma Teacher Ellen" will spend half-days with her to help her progress. We all strive to bring form from chaos and order from disorder, putting the pieces of our lives together to survive and thrive. I believe in DKG and what I can contribute to it—and, selfishly, what it has done for me through the people I depend on, learn from, and value. I am proud of our organization. Let's work SMART to help Hawai`i State reach its full potential!

Thank you for your continued support.

"Sisters by choice, scholars by heart, united by the summer sun."



The Big Island Glow: Recap of the 2026 Spring Convention in Hilo

Submitted by **Kahanu Nguyen**, Convention Chair, Zeta Chapter

The 2026 HSO Spring Convention was held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Keaukaha Elementary School in Hilo. There were 50 attendees representing 11 chapters.

Attendees enjoyed keynote speaker Dr. Pascale Pinner, who shared how to rise to our potential by using the "superpowers" of wonder, curiosity, resiliency, and grit. Evaluations indicated that attendees valued reconnecting with DKG sisters through meaningful conversations and networking in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The excellent organization and clear coordination of the schedule, breakout sessions, and transportation allowed the day to flow effortlessly.

The Country Store and local product pre-orders were also highly praised and popular, providing a relaxed, "hometown" feel to the convention. Nearly $2,000 was raised through the Country Store.

Cont'd – Spring Convention

Breakout Session Highlights

Participants offered high praise for the breakout sessions, describing them as excellent, diverse, relevant, and practical. Highlights included:

- **"AI Made Easy":** Praised for its interesting and relevant information, which encouraged attendees to try new tools in the classroom.
- **"Luminous":** Recognized for its pleasant and comfortable atmosphere that enlightened the lives and relationships of those in attendance.
- **"Music in the Classroom":** Noted for the presenter's passion and for engaging attendees in a fun, welcoming session of singing and participation.
- **"Are You Afraid to Paint?"**: Lauded as a calming, hands-on experiential session that left attendees feeling encouraged and artistic.
- **"Self-Defense 101"**: Commended for its dynamic, humorous, and top-notch coaches who taught effective techniques while motivating attendees to stay prepared and aware.

A Message of Thanks

Zeta Chapter thanks the DKG HSO Executive Board, its officers, and especially YOU, the members, for participating in and supporting the 2026 Spring Convention. We would also like to personally thank **President Ellen Tanoura** and **Executive Secretary Donna Shiroma** for taking the time to meet and plan with Zeta Chapter last November.

The following snapshots capture the achievements and the memorable experiences shared during the spring convention.





Fellowship & Fun at the Spring Convention!







Cont'd – Spring Convention



Committee Reports



Membership in Action

Submitted by **Cindy Asato-Kochi**, DKG Hawai`i 1st VP
Gamma Chapter

Have you explored the updated **Membership Toolkit** in Membership Resources on the DKG website? It's filled with helpful, practical resources to support your efforts in recruiting, retaining, and reinstating members—everything you need in one convenient place.

If you've already clicked the link, you may have discovered that accessing these resources requires your DKG login and password. Don't let that be a barrier! Support is readily available. Simply call (512) 478-5748 (7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. CT), and DKG personnel will gladly assist you. You can also email them at **mem@dkg.org** with your name, state, chapter name, and the home address you used when joining

Cont'd – Membership in Action

DKG. Including your member ID, if available, will help speed up the process. Additional information may be requested to confirm your identity.

Once you're logged in, you'll discover a wealth of materials—some brand new, others refreshed or time-tested favorites. These tools are designed to make membership outreach both effective and meaningful.

As we embrace modern communication, it's worth remembering the impact of a personal touch. While email is quick and convenient, it is also easy to overlook. In contrast, a thoughtfully prepared, formal invitation—mailed or hand-delivered—can make a lasting impression. It conveys the true honor of being invited to join DKG and adds a sense of significance to the experience.

You'll find resources like the revised **Sample Prospect Letter (2024)** in the Membership Toolkit to help you create that meaningful connection. By blending today's tools with timeless approaches, we can continue to strengthen our chapters and celebrate the value of DKG membership!

Treasurer's Message

Submitted by **JennyLee Tam Sing,** DKG Hawai`i State Organization Treasurer, Mu Chapter

Aloha from the DKG HSO Treasurer,
Here is a friendly reminder of some important upcoming deadlines. It's dues collection time again! Please get your chapter dues to your Chapter Treasurers by **June 30th** so they can meet their processing deadline. Chapter Presidents, please add "Dues Collection" to your final meeting agenda. Members, please remember to bring your checkbooks to your final meeting of the fiscal year.

July 15th is the deadline for Chapter Treasurers to submit their dues and Form 15 Annual Report to the State Treasurer. Please note that your Finance Committee must complete your Financial Review before Form 15 is filled out and submitted.

November 15th is the last day to file your chapter's 990-N with the IRS.

I want to thank our wonderful team of Treasurers and welcome any newly appointed Treasurers to our group. Please save **June 6th** on your calendars and plan to attend our **Leadership Development Workshop.** We will be reviewing the duties of Chapter Treasurers; it will be a valuable time of learning and camaraderie.

Mahalo for all you do to keep your chapters organized.

"Letting our minds bloom and our sisterhood take root."

SEE State Initiative: Chapter Progress Reports

Submitted by **Karen Koles** and **Gale Ikeda**, Committee Chairs, Delta Chapter

At the 2025 Fall Forum, we had the opportunity to meet with SEE (Support for Early-career Educators) chapter representatives, at which time we distributed surveys to gather information on work in progress and past SEE projects. After collecting the surveys, we were able to get an idea of what each chapter was doing to fulfill the state initiative.

Several chapters were continuing their previous associations with specific area complexes, while others were involved with specific schools of their choice.

Zeta Chapter led a letter-writing campaign and sent letters of encouragement to new teachers. This was successful because it allowed for more participation from Zeta members, many of whom are retired teachers and do not actively participate in events.

Eta Chapter got the school community involved. Their chapter embraced many of the new teachers from the Philippines by providing housing and transportation, and simply making the new teachers feel cared for by the school community.

Kappa Chapter shared a little "aloha" with 11 beginning teachers from Kapunahala and Kanoelani Elementary Schools. Each gift bag included a handwritten note of encouragement and support, Starbucks gift card, a DKG pouch, and notepads.

Kappa's SEE Project in Action

Kappa sisters had a great time assembling these gift bags.













Eva Philip Curry Scholarship Funds Local Cultural Education at Kapolei Elementary

Submitted by **Mindy Nakashima-Inouye**
Delta Chapter
Eva Philip Curry Scholarship recipient

The **Eva Philip Curry Scholarship** provides stipends to active Delta Kappa Gamma members who request funds for special certification, professional improvement, or school, state, or community projects.

This year, the Eva Philip Curry Scholarship was awarded to Delta Chapter member and Kapolei Elementary School Parent Community Network Center (PCNC) Facilitator, **Mindy Nakashima-Inouye**.

Mindy applied for the scholarship to support a community project called the **Kapolei Lei Hui**. The Kapolei Lei Hui hosts monthly gatherings "where lei lovers of all ages and abilities sit around the table and learn and grow together."

The vision of the Lei Hui is "for Kapolei and surrounding West O'ahu moku to have an abundance of lei made by the community and with materials from our community." Scholarship funds were used to purchase a variety of flowers, leather leaf ferns, raffia, clothespins, floral shears, scissors, plastic storage containers, paper handle bags to store and take home materials.

On Thursday, April 16, Kapolei Elementary hosted a "learn, make, and take" session where one of the founding members of the Lei Hui, who is also a Kapolei Elementary School parent, taught community members how to make a floral kupe'e. A floral kupe'e is a traditional lei worn around the wrist or ankle, often featuring fresh flowers, ferns, and foliage. Commonly used in hula performances to accentuate movements, floral kupe'e are also popular for weddings, graduations, and other special occasions. Once one learns the technique or style of lei making, they can apply these skills to create longer lei for the head or hat (lei po'o) or a lei worn around the neck.





Cont'd – Eva Philip Curry Scholarship





KapoLEI

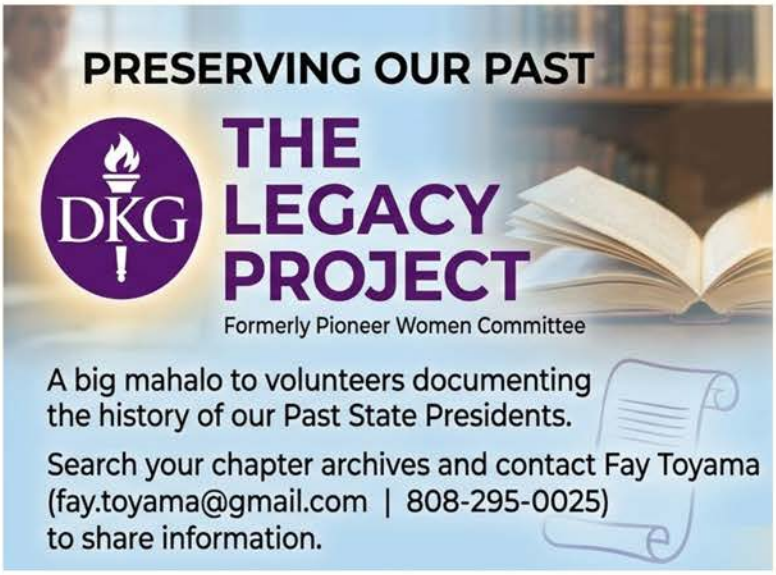




"Planting seeds of knowledge today for a brighter harvest tomorrow."







Preserving Our Past and Investing in Our Future Legacy Project (formerly Pioneer Women) & DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF)

Submitted by **Fay Toyama**, Committee Chair & Ambassador, Theta Chapter

A big mahalo to the members who volunteered at the Spring Convention to help document the history of our DKG Hawai`i State Organization Past State Presidents. Our goal is to feature a one-page article for each past president on the state website.

To ensure our records are complete, we are asking each chapter to search their archives for any information regarding its respective past state presidents. If you have information to share or are willing to assist with these "write-ups," please contact **Fay Toyama** at fay.toyama@gmail.com or 808-295-0025..

DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF)

Mission: The DKGIEF supports effective educational projects, the Society's educational and charitable activities, and the professional growth of educators worldwide.

Vision: Giving to Educate the World.
Established in 2020 through the merger of the DKG Supporting Corporation and the Educational Foundation, the DKGIEF streamlines the Society's financial operations while ensuring transparency in how contributions reach educators globally.

Grant and Scholarship Opportunities
Take full advantage of your membership by applying for the following:

- **Educational Project Awards**: Individual awards up to $8,000 for one-year projects (July 1 – June 30). Renewals are available. Applications are open from November 1 through March 1, with a submission deadline of **March 1, 2027.** Note: Awards do not cover salaries or overhead costs.
- **Cornetet Awards**:
  - Individual Professional Development (CIPD): Available to both members and non-members. Deadlines: **May 1 and November 1.**
  - Educational Seminars (CSPD): For members only. Deadline: November 1.

- **Graduate Scholarships:** Funding is available for members pursuing Master's or doctoral degrees.

How to Support and Apply
To donate or apply for funds, please log in to dkg.org and select the DKGIEF tab. Your donations help support more educators and initiatives.

Don't miss our exciting fundraiser at the 2026 International Convention!
- When: Thursday, July 2 | 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- Tickets: $150 (Available for purchase during convention registration)

Join us for "All Shook Up!"—it promises to be a terrific evening of fun and fellowship!

For more information, contact Hawai`i State Organization DKGIEF Ambassador, **Fay Toyama**: fay.toyama@gmail.com or 808-295.-0025
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Leadership Development Workshop

Submitted by **Mary Miura-Aguinaldo**
Committee Chair, Iota Chapter

Registration is now open through **May 23, 2026.**
Scan or click on the QR Code or use the link: https://bit.ly/2026LDW

June 6, 2026 from 9:00am-1:00pm via Zoom - hosted by **Epsilon**
Individuals who have been elected into leadership positions for the next biennium are encouraged to attend. Chapters should have representatives attending for all key leadership positions (especially President and Treasurer). Please encourage your chapter members to attend. Future leaders are welcome to attend alongside incoming chapter officers to learn more about roles and responsibilities.

A separate "tech practice" overview session will be held on June 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Those needing the extra time and practice are encouraged to indicate the need for this session during the registration process.

Red Roses



A Legacy of Leadership: The Continued Contributions of Doris Ching

Submitted by **Tammy Ogata**, Delta Chapter

After serving for more than 40 years as an educator and administrator in K-12 and higher education, Delta member **Doris Ching** now serves on the editorial board of the national online Journal of College and Character. Locally, Doris is serving her 11th year as a commissioner and vice-chair of the Hawai`i Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Cont'd – Red Roses

Finding the Extraordinary in the Everyday

Submitted by **Cindy Asato-Kochi**, Gamma Chapter

Cindy's two photos were accepted by the DKG Fine Arts Gallery

These two photos were taken several years ago with just an iPhone, as I am a "casual photographer" who enjoys capturing special memories. The ocean scene was captured during a service project with my daughter, where we were given access to a location that is not open to the public. The sunflower picture was taken at an impromptu stop with her along the road when Maui had its first blooming sunflower crop for alternative fuel. At that time, there were no fences in place (though they were put up shortly thereafter).

Thus, I hope to show that everyone with a camera should consider entering their photos, at the very least. Many others have talents in painting, drawing, crafting, and more, and they should be sharing their work as well!

These are my two photos that were accepted by the DKG Fine Arts Gallery:



"Ka Hanu o ke Kai" or **The Breath of the Ocean** shows the ocean's breath through flowing foam lines blending with water, rock, & shoreline. The contrast - turquoise water, white surf, and dark stones - creates clear texture & sharp detail to express perpetual exhale of the ocean.



"Where the Mountains Watch" depicts rows of sunflowers forming cohesive lines that lead the eye with focal clarity and rich texture toward misted mountains. Golden yellows against muted greens and grays create contrast that honors mālama ʻāina (caring/respect for the land) and agricultural diversification.

White Roses

A Tribute to a Golden Sister: Kathryn Hiramoto

Submitted by **Sarah Iha**, Eta Chapter



Kathryn Hiramoto passed away peacefully at home on December 21, 2025, at 97 years of age. She became a DKG member in 1971 and was a passionate kindergarten teacher for 32 years at Kapaa Elementary School. After retirement, she continued her service as an educator by tutoring adult readers and volunteering at Kapaa School and Wilcox Hospital. Kathryn lived a life dedicated to faith and service to others. She will be deeply missed by her Eta Chapter sisters.

Chapter Updates

Gamma News: Honoring Grant in Aid Recipients and Welcoming New Officers

Submitted by **Cindy Asato-Kochi**



Mia Aoyagi, $1000 Grant in Aid high school recipient, is planning to attend Boston University.



Katherine McCall, $1000 Grant in Aid college recipient, is currently attending Saint Louis University.

Cont'd – Chapter Updates

Gamma's New Executive Board 2026-2028

Left to right:

- **Judith Hook**, Recording Secretary
- **Cindy Asato-Kochi,** 1st Vice President
- **Teri Evangelista**, Co-President
- **Alison Uyehara,** Co-President
- **Kim Uyehara,** Treasurer
- **Lorelle Peros,** 2nd Vice President
- **JoAnn Oshiro,** Corresponding Secretary is not pictured



Mu Chapter Welcomes New Members and Leadership

Submitted by **Sharon Inamine**



Some of Mu Chapter's officers and two new members, **Leila Fujiyama** and **Michele Okimura** (holding the red roses) were honored on May 2.

Cont'd – Chapter Updates

Kappa Chapter's Spring Highlights

Embracing the Unexpected

Submitted by **Marilyn Naka**

Kappa Chapter members recently enjoyed a two-day Raku workshop under the guidance of Raku ceramicist and instructor Barbara Guidage. At the first gathering, members created their unique, one-of-a-kind pendants using a variety of tools. Two weeks later glazes were applied to the designs. The final intense kiln firing sealed the vivid blend of colors and outer textures. Although Barbara warned the group that with Raku the outcome is never certain, everyone marveled at the beauty of each finished piece.













"Raku ware is happiness in the accident"

Cont'd – Chapter Updates

Kappa's Triple Celebration

Submitted by **Lena Kanemori**

On **May 2**, Kappa Chapter celebrated a 'triple crown' of events, celebrating the chapter's 56th birthday and congratulating its new officers. The group also extended a warm welcome to its newest inductees, **June Minakami** and **Linda Tatsuno**.







"GOLDEN DAYS AND SISTERLY STAYS: CHERISHING THE BOND THAT FUELS OUR MISSION."

International Convention

ELEVATE. EMBRACE. EMPOWER.

2026 DKG International Convention June 30th - July 4th

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, Aurora, Colorado

Submitted by **Zoe Green**, DKG Hawai`i 1st VP, Beta Chapter

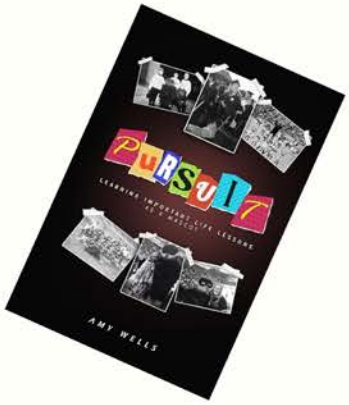


Members of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International are invited to attend one of the organization's most enriching global gatherings—the **2026 International Convention**. This five-day event will take place at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado, and will offer dynamic sessions, inspiring speakers, and cultural exchange opportunities.

This highly anticipated event brings together women educators from around the world to connect, collaborate, and celebrate their shared commitments to education, leadership, and service. Convention schedules, sign-ups, and registration information can be found on the international site: **https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/2026Conv.**

Amy Wells: Author, Speaker & Dream Pursuer



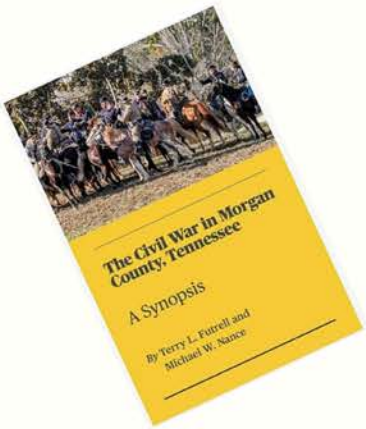


Amy Wells is a former special education teacher, who brought her dream of writing to life with her first book, "Pursuit". By sharing these life lessons and classroom experiences, she is excited to elevate, embrace, and empower you.

Cont'd – International Convention

Terry L. Futrell: Songwriter, Non-Fiction Author, & Tech Pro





A University of Tennessee graduate, **Terry Futrell** spent 45 years working in electronics engineering and technology management. Now retired, he focuses on historical research, writing, photography, and songwriting. Over the last decade, he has published seven books and two magazine articles, with two additional books in the making.

REGISTRATION

- Full Registration: $595.00
- One Day Registration (Wednesday,Thursday, Friday): $325.00
- Saturday Registration Only: $350.00

Registration fees cover convention events for the days purchased (meetings, breakout sessions, passion projects, & meal events) . They do not include the DKGIEF Fundraiser event.

Prices increase after May 31st at 11:59 p.m. CDT.

- There will be no registrations sold after 11:59 pm CDT on June 23, 2026

For additional registration questions: call 512-478-5748
or email register@dkg.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center
6700 North Gaylord Rockies Boulevard, Aurora, CO 80019

Toll Free: +1 (720) 853-9020
The conference group rate is $189/night (taxes not included).
Group rates increase after June 5th.

SNAPSHOTS!

EPSILON chapter

Chapter Meeting @ Kalakaua Gardens
Sandy, Charlie, Steph, Chris, Emma -Jean





Sandy, Chris, Stephanie



Charlie Oyama





Working together making favors for LDW

Opening ceremony - Pledge of Allegiance



A Time to Reflect
(Created in collaboration with Gemini AI)

From mauka heights where the cool breezes blow,
To the sun-warmed makai where the turquoise tides flow.
We take this summer time to reflect and to rest,
On the lives that we lead and the ways we are blessed.
Hand in hand, we craft the lei, a circle strong and true,
Mentoring our community with a vision ever new.
We hold dear the memories of the sisters we have known,
Whose light within our circle has beautifully shone.
We relax in the shade as the soft petals fall,
Answering with peace the islands' summer call.
Keeping healthy and strong, we find joy in the light,
Holding each moment close, with a heart pure and bright.

Save the Dates!

Leadership Development Workshop: June 6, 2026, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm via Zoom (Hosted by Epsilon)

International Convention: June 30 – July 4, 2026, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado



EDITORS' CORNER

From the editors of the Aloha i ke Akea
Lena Kanemori, Carole Mitsuyoshi-Sugai, & Joyce Ono



We extend a heartfelt mahalo to all chapters that submitted articles and photos to ***Aloha i ke Akea***, concluding a successful year. This is a wonderful time to reflect on our accomplishments as we look forward to the year ahead.

As this is our official State Organization publication, we strive to ensure every issue is accessible to all members, featuring informative, relevant, and comprehensive coverage of every committee and chapter. To continue this mission, we cordially invite and **encourage contributions from every chapter across the state.**

Help ***Aloha i ke Akea*** tell our story!

"Summer: The perfect season for our potential to reach full bloom."