

## President's message

Aloha HSO DKG Sisters,

As we close another academic year and biennium for chapter leaders, I want to thank the chapter officers for their leadership over the past two years. This pandemic has challenged us with many obstacles, but you hurdled them and led with grace and poise. Some of you served for two bienniums. I applaud you for choosing to continue in your role, knowing and understanding the challenges ahead. It has been an honor serving with you, and I look forward to our continued partnerships in and out of the society.



Last month, we connected at the 2022 Spring Convention, hosted by *Iota* Chapter. Over 100 members were in attendance. The theme, *Mohala pono i kea ao ākea* - Blooming Wherever You Are, inspired us to reflect, nourish, and grow in our professional and personal lives. Southwest Regional Director, Janis Barr, gave us an update on International DKG news, and we had seven inspirational breakout sessions. Kudos to *Iota* Chapter for an outstanding job coordinating this annual meeting.

Next month, we will gather once again to meet and train the new chapter leaders at the Leadership Development Workshop on June 18, 2022, hosted by *Alpha* Chapter. The theme for the workshop is *Ulu Pono - Grow Well - Professionally and Personally*. I hope many of you will take this opportunity to gain new leadership skills.

Finally, the New Orleans International Convention is in July. We look forward to seeing our sisters from around the world in The Big Easy. We are excited to have a large Hawai'i contingency in attendance at the first in-person international convention in four years.

Have a great summer, everyone!

Lori Furoyama  
Hawai'i State President

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## Congratulations!

The Arts & Humanities Jury of DKG International recently accepted *Soo Boo Tan's* (*Mu*) multimedia "The Wolf Moon" into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

Her artwork can be found on the DKG Fine Arts Gallery on the International website for the next six months.



## Xi recognizes Kaua'i's teachers

"Teachers, you deserve \$100,000 for surviving another COVID Year" - Xi Executive Board

Xi Chapter recognized teachers' dedication and hard work by offering 100 Grand Bar chocolate candy bars to them as they shopped at "Kumu's Cupboard," a free school supply store on Kaua'i. Kaua'i's teachers are able to shop once a month at Kumu's Cupboard, which is located in Lihue. Kumu's Cupboard is a non-profit organization run by volunteers, many of whom are active or retired teachers.

-Alicia Miyashiro, Xi



## 2022 Spring Convention

On April 9, 2022, over 116 participants logged in to the 2022 Spring Convention: *Mohala pono i kea ao ākea* - "Blooming wherever you are." This year's convention had one general session, one guest speaker session, and one breakout session of the participant's choosing. All participants were placed in their first or second choice breakout session. In addition, *Kathy Sakuda (Iota)* mailed handmade yarn leis to the presenters before the convention so that all presenters could wear them during the convention.

The quality feedback survey showed that all participants thought the 2022 Spring Convention was well organized and informative and that the keynote speaker, Janis Barr, was interesting and engaging. The feedback regarding the breakout sessions were positive, with many stating they wanted more time in the session! For future conventions, suggestions for breakout sessions include personal interests, mental health, teaching practices, and a session on where scholarship winners are now. There was also a suggestion of having the opportunity to attend more than one breakout session.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended. We cannot wait to see what is in store for the 2023 Spring Convention.

## HSO Finance Committee updates

At the 2022 Spring Convention, the membership voted to discuss an increase in state dues. Therefore, the Finance Committee will introduce an increase in Hawai'i State dues at the 2023 Spring Convention.

HSO dues will be incrementally increased by \$5.00 in 2024, 2025, and 2026. This will result in a total increase of \$15.00 in 2026. This rate will continue until HSO determines the need for additional funds.

HSO dues have not been increased for many years. This procedure will allow everyone to provide awareness and wise decision-making. Since the vote will be in April 2023, the suggestion is for chapters to use each chapter meeting before April to review and discuss. To begin your discussions, send any questions you have to the Finance Committee by June 1, 2022. This will enable the committee to respond by the chapter's first meeting of the new biennium year. Please send all questions to: [hiratap@byuh.edu](mailto:hiratap@byuh.edu).

As the 2022 – 2023 year progresses, the Finance Committee will continue to be there for you by listening to your concerns and suggestions. It is important to provide all members with a process to have input to the proposal to increase the state dues incrementally.

-Peggy Hirata, Finance  
Committee Chair

## Nancy Robbins returns to Florida

Zeta Chapter bid a fond farewell to *Nancy Robbins* who moved back to Florida on March 31, 2022. Twenty-four years ago, Nancy moved to Hawai'i Island when she and her husband Rich relocated to Leilani Estates in the Puna District. Thanks to a contact made with a Zeta member at an International Convention, Nancy transferred to Zeta Chapter. And so began a rich symbiotic sharing between Nancy and DKG Zeta Chapter and Hawai'i State. Nancy's transfer from her Florida chapter to Zeta is an excellent example of the Society's first purpose to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.



Nancy shared her Southern charm and leadership skills by participating very actively at all three DKG levels: chapter, state, and international. Her Hawai'i resume includes serving as Zeta Chapter president, Hawai'i State Vice President, chairwoman, and member of numerous chapter and state committees. She also attended most annual International conventions and regional conferences.

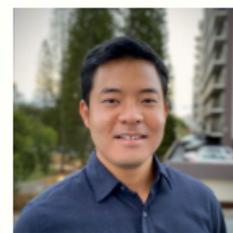
Her positive attitude and calm manner never faltered even when the 2018 lower Puna lava eruption took up residence in her subdivision. Luckily, Nancy's house was spared because it is located above the eruption site. She, her husband, and pets all weathered their temporary evacuation, the falling of dangerously thin and glassy Pele's hair, and more. But, the need to take care of family members has prompted them to leave their quiet neighborhood once again and return to Florida. Nancy, Rich, and their five pets safely arrived in Orlando, Florida, after a 10-hour direct flight from Honolulu. And so, with Zeta Chapter's sincerest wishes, their next chapter of life begins!

-Katherine Webster, Zeta

## Scholarship ho'omaika'i

Congratulations to *Tyler Fujita* and *Brittany Laimana*, recipients of a \$1,000 Lucille Hodgins Selective Recruitment Grant. Also, let's cheer for *Carli Miyashiro (Theta)* and *Adrian (Addy) Simons-Wilson (Epsilon)* as recipients of a \$500 Eva Phillip Curry State Scholarship.

Tyler is pursuing a Master of Education degree in Curriculum Studies, focusing on progressive philosophy and pedagogy at UH Mānoa. His path to education was circuitous, from a business background and employment to teaching experiences with SEEQS, a public charter school in Nu'uano, and an international education nonprofit, the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council (PAAC). As the Study Tours & Global Engagement Director of PAAC Hawai'i, Tyler designs and delivers global issues and leadership curricula for large, multi-school Global Vision Summits and the Global Leadership Program. Completing this degree should enhance his ability to effect meaningful changes in the delivery of education in Hawai'i and beyond.



Brittany, a mother of 5 children, is a UH Mānoa student pursuing the Master of Education degree in Educational Foundations. Through her part-time DOE employment as a Homeless Concerns Liaison, she has direct experience with the challenges children face from homeless families who attend public schools. As a result, she is very conscious of how education improves the lives of Hawai'i's youth. Enabling Brittany to complete her degree will strengthen her skills and opportunities to assist children in reaching their potential and achieving their goals.



Carli, a Theta Chapter member since 2020, is busily completing her Doctorate of Education in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University. She is currently serving as Behavior Dean at Kapolei Middle School. Carli's dissertation focuses on the changes in teaching pedagogy faced by two veteran middle school teachers in this time of a global pandemic. Her research will enable stakeholders to better support Hawai'i educators when transitioning to a new learning modality.



Addy, an Epsilon Chapter member since 2020, is enrolled in the Master in Early Childhood Education program at Portland State University. Employed by the Kaua'i Montessorri Project toddler classroom, she is very aware of the manpower shortages in early childhood, particularly in early childhood mental health, both in Kaua'i and the rest of the state. Her studies focus on the need for multi-cultural inclusivity with a trauma-informed approach for children and their families. The professional growth Addy will attain with her degree will increase her impact on the educational resources in her community.



-Wini Tatsuta, Zeta

## DKG Hawai'i State Leadership Development 2022

The DKG Hawai'i State Leadership Development Committee proudly hosts the 2022 Leadership Development Workshop for chapter leaders of the 2022-2024 biennium.

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2022  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Online using Zoom

We will send the Zoom information and the link to the Leadership Development Workshop Matrix, which includes guidelines for officers upon receiving your registration.

Cost: FREE  
Deadline for Registration: May 31, 2022  
[Invitation and Agenda](#)

Please contact *Kara Ono* via email at [mikaki46@hotmail.com](mailto:mikaki46@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

-Anne Marie Duca, Lambda

## Easter at Kahauiki Village

On Thursday, April 14, 2022, Kahauiki Village (KV) held an Easter Celebration. The entire community was invited to participate in an evening full of activities. KV had two fields for egg hunting, a scavenger hunt, a bubble-blowing station, arts and crafts, and packaged egg dying kits for our families.

Over 50 households attended the KV Easter Celebration. They all left with happy smiles, and they had a great time. KV sends a special thank you to DKG for their kind donation of candy and plastic eggs. With these contributions, KV was able to fill two fields full of eggs for their keiki. The families of KV and their staff thank you for all of your help!

-Kiana Whipkeyi, Kahauiki Village

## 2021 Chapter Blooming Roses

*Joy Personius* is a West Hawai'i Complex SEL Resource Teacher and an active member of *Rho* Chapter. "Joy" is a name that describes her perfectly as she spreads happiness by caring for others. Her work in the SEL position and as a *Rho* Membership Committee member is testimony to her aloha for others and for building community in all areas of her life.



Joy was instrumental in developing a series of community events to bring awareness to the effects of trauma in a young person's life. These events brought community organizations together in support of addressing the social-emotional needs of our students and families.

In less than a full year of membership, Joy has elevated awareness of DKG in over nine schools in West Hawai'i through our Cup of Cheer events. Joy saw a need to address the morale of teachers as the pandemic brought numerous challenges and stresses to schools and teachers. Through her love for networking and partnerships, Cup of Cheer successfully lifted spirits and fulfilled our chapter's membership goals.

-*Sandra Taosaka, Rho*



Since her initiation in 2016, *Kelly Ralleta* has been a valuable and active participant in *Lambda* Chapter. She frequently offers tech support to less knowledgeable members during leadership meetings. Presently, she is serving as 1st VP and 2nd VP. *Lambda* was not able to fill the 2nd VP position, and Kelly graciously was willing to cover both positions. In addition, Kelly is very active in the Supporting Early Educators Ad Hoc Committee. Kelly, along with another tech-savvy *Lambda* member has developed "Techie Tuesdays," a Professional Learning Community, which involves digitally presenting methods for new teachers in the Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Area to use technology to enhance their teaching skills.

Currently, Kelly is teaching at Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama Campus. She has taught 3rd grade and is presently assigned to the 6th grade. Previously, she taught at Voyager Charter School, where she organized and led a group of students in a hip-hop dance routine for competitions. These unique experiences have shown that Kelly is a model for future DKG women educators.

-*Cynthia Choy, Teena Urban, Anne Marie Duca, & Cynthia Azama, Lambda*

## New Members

Let's give a warm aloha to our newest members:

- *Tiffany Dela Cruz (Beta)*: teacher at Pāhoa Elementary School and holds a Master of Education
- *Denise Gallagher (Beta)*: Literary Specialist and holds a Master in Special Education
- *Beverly Ikalani (Beta)*: a former 20-year veteran elementary school teacher and 15-year veteran HSTA UniServe Director
- *J.S. Kealoha Enrique (Eta)*: a 24-year veteran teacher who is currently a high school special education teacher at Kapa'a High School in Kaua'i and holds a Master of Science in Special Education
- *Danielle Bryant (Eta)*: a 19-year veteran teacher, Vice-Principal, and Adjunct Professor and is currently a second-grade teacher at Kapa'a Elementary School
- *Emily Daubert (Mu)*: an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- *Alyssa Koki (Mu)*: general manager at Kahauiki Village and holds a Master of Education

Let's give a warm aloha to our reinstated members:

- *Donna Shigezawa (Mu)*: incoming VP of membership
- *Sherri Uecke (Mu)*: a 20-year veteran elementary and high school teacher and is pursuing a degree in Learning Design and Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

-*Corinne Matsumoto, Beta; Rebecca Fries, Eta; JennyLee Tam Sing, Mu*

## White Roses

*Florence (Flo) Yamada* passed away on November 23, 2021, at the age of 85. She had recently retired from HGEA after many successful careers at Aiea High School, DOE, Leeward Community College, and Governor Cayetano's Office. As a *Beta* Chapter member, she served as chapter president and treasurer.

-*Corinne Matsumoto, Beta*

