

## President's message

Aloha HSO DKG Sisters,

Welcome back to another school year and a new biennium. I hope you are all having a smooth transition back to more regular routines.



First, with the start of the new biennium, I want to thank our exiting Second Vice President and Membership Chair *Susan Alivado* for her service over the last two years. Three-fourths of her biennium was shadowed by the pandemic but she continued to work diligently to grow and support our membership. We are so grateful for her leadership. I also want to welcome Second Vice President *Robin Awa* and Secretary *Mohala Boncales* to their new positions on the Executive Committee. We are excited to have them in their new roles.

After meeting with our Executive Committee, we are pleased to share our new biennium theme, *A'o Aku, A'o Mai – To teach and learn*. As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuing to teach and learn from each other. These days nothing is "normal," and we are pivoting on a daily basis. We need to continue to be flexible and learn from each other. A new opportunity that has sprouted from this theme is Talk Story Tuesdays. Each first Tuesday of the month, all members are invited to join us via Zoom to teach, learn, and grow from different speakers. August started with Lessons from COVID. Ten members from five chapters shared what they learned about themselves as a result of the pandemic. We hope members will join us once again on September 7th at 7:00 p.m. when State Parliamentarian *Keikilani Meyer* will lead the discussion on *Critical Race Theory*. What is Critical Race Theory, and what does it mean for Hawai'i's educators?

Last biennium, I wanted to direct the spotlight on our diverse membership and recognize our outstanding members with the introduction of Blooming Roses for our newest members and the Kumu award for our active senior members. I hope to continue the focus on membership by asking all chapters to consider initiating or reinstating at least one member this year. In addition, let's continue to recognize all our sisters' accomplishments, milestones, and celebrations in our newsletters and on individual chapters' social media accounts. Social media pages are a great platform to share exciting news with the state membership and beyond.

I hope you all had a restful summer and are charged up for the new year. Best wishes to your 2021–2022 school year, and remember – *A'o Aku, A'o Mai!*

  
Lori Furoyama  
Hawai'i State President

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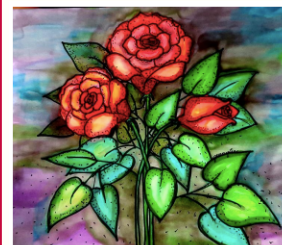
## Scholarship recipient

*Rho* Chapter is happy to announce that Alisha Kaai, Kohala High School graduate, is the recipient of our DKG Scholarship. Alisha will receive \$1,000 to pursue her calling as a teacher.



Alisha is looking forward to building relationships that will positively impact her students and the community. Her future students will meet a teacher who believes in them and cares deeply about each student reaching their full potential.

We want to thank Kohala High teacher, Brooke Kise, for inspiring Alisha in pursuing her dreams of being a teacher. Teachers make a difference and Alisha's story confirms this. - *Sandy Taosaka, Rho*



**SAVE THE DATE !!!**

**DKG FALL FORUM  
October 23, 2021**

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

## Glimmer to glow: Highlights from the International Conference

The two-and-a-half-day 2021 International Conference started with a luncheon in the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel on Thursday, July 8. Then, international President Becky Sadowsky and Oregon Governor Kate Brown welcomed 243 sisters from all over the United States. Following that were two workshops. And, later in the evening, the talented, energetic members and friends from Oregon planned and presented the grand “Oregon Welcomes You.”

Five more breakout sessions interspersed the next two days, covering a wide variety of subjects from chapter concerns as “Maximizing Talents, Developing Leaders” to professional development like “Survival Kit for Teachers” and to personal growth as “What I Did During my Covid Vacation (Introduction to Genealogy Research).” A whopping 46 sessions were offered to attendees, as well as four 15-minute Take Away sessions.

Keynote speaker, Leigh Wintz, encouraged us to make sound decisions based on solid evidence, develop communities of trust, and create nimble infrastructures to enhance flexibility and change. Finally, Dr. Gene Sharrett, Vietnam veteran, teacher, and inspirational speaker, compelled us to believe in the power of each individual, personify positivity, and make small differences in the world wherever we are and however we can.

Also featured was the U.S. Forum which addressed the fourth purpose of our Society: “To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and women educators.” They invite all interested sisters to join their seminar in Arlington, VA, from March 6–8, 2022. You will be informed of issues and concerns impacting education on the national, state, and local levels and learn strategies to make our voices heard and respected.

Though the program schedules were packed, there were slivers of time during meals and breaks to visit the Marketplace or Art Gallery, opportunities to meet sisters, discuss ideas, and discover more about DKG. During these encounters with sisters, I was reminded of why I love our great organization: we are filled with women who exemplify care, commitment, and challenge!

Finally, Executive Director, Nita Scott, presented her eye-opening address, “Take the Reins and Let’s Get Going!” She shared that in the 1980s, our membership totaled 180,000 strong. By 2010 it had dropped to 100,760, and in 2020 we totaled 62,341 members. Though it was a difficult piece of information to share, she felt it was important that all members are aware of this and concerned enough to get moving. She presented the challenge for each of us to locate and bring just one new member into our Society by examining why we joined in the first place and the value it continues to have in our lives. Spotting prospective members, sharing our appreciation of DKG from our hearts, and wrapping ourselves around them to survive and thrive in our challenging profession would be simple, natural, and critical.

At this point, a full month after our conference, I’m left with a warm glow. Despite the dire situation we face, or perhaps because of it, it is even more critical that we renew ourselves and become more visible and vocal in our support of educators and education. After all, we belong to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, dynamic, caring, and committed women educators who face the challenge of impacting education worldwide! - *Eileen Clarke, Iota*



Front Row: Corinne Matsumoto (Beta), Deanne Kanekuni (Theta), Eileen Clarke (Iota), Peggy Hirata (Epsilon)  
Back Row: Lori Furoyama (Mu), Patti Jenks (Mu), Donna Shiroma (Kappa), Stephanie Conching (Epsilon)

## State Fall Forum 2021: Call for presenters

Please consider sharing your special talents as leading women educators at our virtual Fall Forum on October 23, 2021 via Zoom. In keeping with our theme, *E Huli A'o Ana* - “Learning Will Change”, we are seeking a variety of 45-minute presentations addressing personal and professional development topics which will inspire us as educators and learners to pivot with the changing needs of our society. Topics of interest include personal growth and wellness, DKG-related topics, technology tools, classroom instruction, and current topics in the community, state, and nation.

Interested presenters should submit the 2021 DKG Fall Forum Call for Presenters form by September 1, 2021. All proposals received by September 1, 2021, will be reviewed. You will be contacted shortly thereafter with information as to the status of your proposal. To complete the form, please click on the link below or copy and paste the URL link (case sensitive), into the address bar of your browser: <https://bit.ly/HSOPresenters2021>

Contact *La Verne Tada*, the Breakout Presenters Chair, at [lavernetada@gmail.com](mailto:lavernetada@gmail.com), if you have any questions. Thank you! - *Ruby Hiraishi & Vivian Hee, Fall Forum Co-Chairs, and JennyLee Tam Sing, Mu*



## S.E.E.: Mu and Theta

On July 30, 2021, *Mu* Chapter packed 30 goodie bags for their Supporting Early Educators (S.E.E.) project to encourage first-year teachers in the Farrington-Kalani-Kaiser Complex Area. Starbucks gift cards, cookies, food bars, packaged nuts, and positive notes were included in the bags. A special gift was a handmade scrubbie by *Ellen Tanoura*. Funding came from the chapter, as well as individual chapter members who made voluntary donations.



Ellen Tanoura, Vivian Hee, Sharon Inamine, and JennyLee Tam Sing packing goodie bags

*Mu*'s S.E.E. linker is *Sharon Inamine*, and *Ellen Tanoura* opened her home for the project. *Vivian Hee* and *JennyLee Tam Sing* also came to help. The bags were picked up at 7:30 a.m. on August 2, 2021, by *Joan Funamura*, in time for the school opening! The delivery was made to our nervous and excited first-year teachers. We welcome them to the profession.  
- *JennyLee Tam Sing, Mu*

On July 7, 2021, *Theta* Chapter met to create 100 Teacher Toolkits for their S.E.E. project to support first- and second-year teachers in the Pearl City-Waipahu Complex Area. The Teacher Toolkit included cards, inspirational quotes, instructional ideas, post-it notes, clips, a password log, and a pen. Thank you to *Cynthea Michimoto* and *Terri Tanji* for building the toolkits. Thank you to *Ruth Chun*, *Hazel Hasegawa*, *Deanne Kanekuni*, and *Sandy Kaneshiro* for donating supplies. And lastly, thank you to *Gwen Mau*, *Carli Miyashiro*, *Lisa Nagamine*, *Leigh Okazaki*, *Darlene Oshiro*, *Terri Tanji*, *Fay Toyama*, and *Bea Zane* for coming together to add goodies to the Teacher Toolkit and for providing additional supplies. - *Carli Miyashiro, Theta*



Theta's Teacher Toolkits

## Statewide Blooming Rose

*Lisa Nagamine (Theta)* is an outstanding leader who supports other educators by sharing her expertise in technology to nurture their leadership. From her initiation in 2011, Lisa hosted *Theta* Chapter meetings at her school. She has been a presenter to help people overcome technological challenges, use Google docs, navigate a matrix, think critically, and hone leadership skills.



Lisa has served on the Leadership Development Committee since 2018, and has presented workshops to support members. As the current State First Vice President, she worked to develop the current Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Portal, and the SAP Data Dashboard accessible to every member. She created a 1st VP/SAP/EEC matrix to use as a resource and tool, and meets individually with chapter VPs weekly.

Lisa is especially gifted in helping people who view technology as an obstacle and overcome it as a challenge. She is patient, positive, and respected. She volunteers when asked. No matter how difficult the situation, Lisa is known to be collaborative. Her leadership skills are well respected in *Theta* Chapter, at the state level of DKG, and in the Hawai'i Department of Education.  
- *Deanne Kanekuni, Theta*

## U.S. Forum Ad Hoc Committee

The U.S. Forum Ad Hoc Committee met in July to work on the next steps toward participation and action. We are charged not only by the International organization of DKG but of our own late Patricia Park, who called for knowledge and action. In this spirit, the committee has offered the following items to be acted upon: Gun Violence, Cyber-Bullying, and Violence Against Women. We are looking for members, preferably one from each chapter, to plan activities around the topics of interest. If you are interested in joining, please email *Gwen Mau (Theta)* at [maug006@gmail.com](mailto:maug006@gmail.com).

We are also suggesting we consider honorary membership to two women who affect education: U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono and State Senator Michele Kidani. Senator Hirono has sponsored bills on racial violence against Asians and is an outspoken advocate of voting rights, women's rights, and children's issues. Senator Kidani is the chair of the Education Committee and has overseen many suggestions for our educational system. Both women would add to our sphere of influence, as well as guide us in many policy debates. Both women are amenable to meeting with members to hear our educational concerns. The committee requests each Chapter discuss their honorary membership and let our President, Lori Furoyama, know of each chapter's decision.

Finally, the U.S. Forum Ad Hoc Committee will bring discussions of new issues and the DKG neutrality stance will be shared in the Fall Forum. We want our educated members to be well informed and then take action. - *Gwen Mau, Theta*

## Eta in the community

Eleven members of the *Eta* Chapter joined dozens of volunteers to celebrate Kaua'i's 7th Annual Back-To-School Bash 2021. This year featured a drive-through format for supply pickup to promote social distancing. Supplies were packed in two different bags: one for students grades K–5 and one for students grades 6–12. The project packed more than 3000 backpacks for K–12 students getting ready to return to school. Advanced registration for the special day filled up within three hours! All the community partners who made Kaua'i's largest school supply giveaway were most appreciated. *Eta* Chapter volunteers were there to pack supplies. On Saturday, July 24, 2021, *Eta* members could be seen with their masks and gloves, distributing the packs to happy families. - *Vicky Medeiros, Eta*



From Left to Right: Lorna Tsuchiya, Sarah Iha, Dr. Kani Blackwell, President Becky Fries, Vicky Medeiros

## Kahauiki Village Project

The partnership sprouted with offering tutorial assistance to the children at Kahauiki Village (KV) at the onset of the pandemic. The commitments grew slowly from both KV and DKG. Thank you to the DKG members who steadfastly volunteered through face-to-face and/or online support—*Sharon Inamine* and *Ellen Tanoura (Mu)*, *Kathy Sakuda (Iota)*, and *Adele Wada (Kappa)*.



Lena Kanemori, Carole Mitsuyoshi-Sugai, Gail Ogawa (Kappa) pose with KV Summer Fun student.

Fortunately, the partnership expanded during the summer with DKG members volunteering at the Center's Summer Fun sessions. Thank you to the members who teamed up with others to not only create fun and meaningful lessons and activities but also often packaged goodies for the children. Though at times the attendance of the KV children varied, the efforts were much appreciated by Allyssa Koki, Educational Coordinator of KV, the families, and, foremost, the children. They will remember the stories read to them, the art/creative projects that molded into something they could show and tell at home, the lunch boxes you helped them decorate, the hula dances they learned, and mostly, your presence.

At the end of the KV Summer Fun Program, other DKG members assisted in “help the families register for school” day. DKG and other agency language interpreters pranced door to door while others signed up families for school, bus transportation, and tutoring. The involvement of DKG members at KV has awakened other possible outreach ideas from continuing and committing to tutoring, elaborating commitment for the summer and during other breaks, educating parents about learning, and assisting parents to get a degree (i.e., GED). The possibilities are endless; the needs are great! The O‘ahu Coordinating Council and Executive Board will be discussing the project during their meetings.

Mahalo to *Claudia Kaneyuki (Beta)*, *Gale Ikeda* and *Jo Ige (Delta)*, *Peggy Hirata*, *Charley Oyama*, and *Teri Tokushige (Epsilon)*, *Eileen Clarke* and *Kathy Sakuda (Iota)*, *Lena Kanemori*, *Carole Mitsuyoshi-Sugai*, and *Gail Ogawa (Kappa)*, *Mohala Boncales* and daughter *Joey*, *Sharon Inamine*, *Ellen Tanoura*, and *Maile Yasui (Mu)* for volunteering their time to make children's lives beam with a ray of hope and sunshine! -*Ellen Tanoura, Mu*

## Congratulations!

*Rho* Chapter is pleased to share that our sister, *Kecia McDonald*, is one of 49 public school educators to participate in the NEA Foundation Global Learning Fellowship. The fellowship is a year-long professional learning experience focused on education and empowering students for global citizenship. Fellows will enhance their knowledge and skills to integrate global competency in their classroom instruction, advocate for global competency in their school and district, and help students thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

*Kecia* is looking forward to immersing herself in online coursework, webinars, reading and reflection with the support of the NEA Foundation staff and fellows. A two-day professional development workshop and a nine-day international field study to South Africa next summer is also part of the program.

We are excited for *Kecia* and know that she will be an outstanding representative of our State and DKG. - *Sandra Taosaka, Rho*

