

President's message

Aloha Hawai'i State DKG,

This message is bittersweet as I address you for the last time as State President. The last four years have been quite a ride. I am so proud of our 2019–2021 and 2021–2023 Executive Committees, *Lisa Nagamine (Theta)*, *Susan Alivado (Gamma)*, *Robin Awa (Beta)*, *Mohala Boncales (Mu)*, *Adele Wada (Kappa)*, *Donna Shiroma (Kappa)*, *Keikilani Meyer (Zeta)*, and *Gloria Kishi (Lambda)*. What a team! Working alongside these intelligent, committed, and talented women was an honor.



To the Hawai'i State membership, thank you for welcoming and supporting us. The pandemic was something none of us were ready for, but true to our profession, we adjusted and made the best with what we had. We witnessed chapter leaders create innovative ways to meet and stay connected. From small group meetings to Zoom calls to traditional letter-writing and postcards, Hawai'i State tried it all and grew stronger because of it. This was evident at the 2023 Spring Convention, our first in-person meeting post-pandemic. We integrated the old traditions with new knowledge from our online conversations, giving us a "new look" for our state conventions. Through it all, we taught and learned from each other - *A'o Aku, A'o Mai*.

I am confident that we will take the lessons of COVID and continue to use them to advance ourselves in the next biennium. It is with great excitement that I pass the baton over to the new State President, *Stephanie Conching (Epsilon)*, and her team:

- 1st Vice President - *Teri Tabiolo (Theta)*
- 2nd Vice President - *Ronnie Kopp (Lambda)*
- Secretary - *Leigh Okazaki (Theta)*
- Treasurer - *JennyLee Tam Sing (Mu)*

These first-time state officers will be guided by *Donna Shiroma (Kappa)*, who will serve another biennium as Executive Secretary.

Imua Hawai'i State! Mahalo, and enjoy your summer!

Mahalo,



Lori Furoyama
Hawai'i State President

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. *Carli Miyashiro (Theta)* and *Sooboo Tan (Mu)* on their recent selections by DKG International. Carli had an article published in the recent DKG Bulletin. Sooboo has a photograph of a papaya tree in the online DKG Art Gallery. Both are available on the DKG website.

-*Lori Furoyama, Mu*



PHOENIX IS
CALLING . . .



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Phoenix Conference

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOU CAN

- Play an important role in making the DKG Phoenix Conference a success.
- Greet and assist conference attendees in your volunteer position.
- Be a part of an international conference.
- Give as much of your time as you are able in order to make this event a wonderful experience for you and your colleagues.

Click the link below to volunteer!

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International: Phoenix Conference (signuugenius.com)

2023 Spring Convention

Hawai'i DKG members were welcomed back, in person, to the 2023 Spring Convention on Friday and Saturday, April 14–15, 2023. Many enjoyed the pre-convention dinner and wonderful fellowship, as President *Lori Furoyama (Mu)* also recognized the Blooming Roses of the past three years. She also introduced the 2023 Blooming Rose chapter nominees and honored *Mary Miura-Aguinaldo (Iota)* as the Hawai'i State Blooming Rose.



Kappa Chapter

On Saturday, April 15, Lori opened the day with a combined Executive Board and General Membership Meeting. She challenged our members to "continue to teach, share, and learn from each other." She reminded everyone that one can learn from many sources - *A'ohē pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi*, the convention theme.

DKG International President Dr. *Debbie LeBlanc* sent greetings via video. She was followed by a powerful message from Keynote Speaker Dr. *Noelani Goodyear-Ka'opua*, described as "related directly to our mission and goals as educators."



Flower arranging breakout session

Ten choices were available for the Breakout Sessions. According to the Quality Feedback Survey, members appreciated the variety offered. Examples of other feedback were informative, wonderful, refreshing, high energy, and interesting. Many requested that some of the topics be repeated in the future.

We remembered our "white rose" sisters in a touching Celebration of Life ceremony coordinated by *Robin Awa (Beta)*, 2nd vice president.

Gloria Kishi (Lambda) installed the 2023–2025 DKG Hawai'i State Officers:

- President: *Stephanie Conching (Epsilon)*
- 1st VP: *Teri Tabiolo (Theta)*
- 2nd VP: *Ronelle "Ronnie" Kopp (Lambda)*
- Secretary: *Leigh Okazaki (Theta)*
- Treasurer: *JennyLee Tam Sing (Mu)*

Although the day's schedule was packed, our members noted in the Quality Feedback Survey that they appreciated combining the Executive Board and General Membership meetings. Overwhelmingly, members also appreciated the opportunity they had "to collaborate with DKG sisters from across the state," "to enjoy our sisterhood," and "to see old friends and learn new and useful information."

Thank you to Convention Chairperson *Donna Shiroma (Kappa)* and *Kappa* Chapter sisters for their hard work planning and hosting this first in-person convention after three years of virtual meetings. Thank you to our State President, Lori Furoyama, for her outstanding and innovative leadership and Executive Board over the past four years.
-*Carole Mitsuyoshi-Sugai, Kappa*

Kudos and Red Roses from Delta



Dr. Doris Ching and Lynn Shoji

Dr. *Doris Ching (Delta)* was recently recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of President Theodore Roosevelt High School and inducted into the Roosevelt High School Hall of Fame.

Education has been fortunate that Dr. Ching chose education as a career. We appreciate her outstanding service in leading student government at Robert Louis Stevenson Intermediate School and Roosevelt High School. She showed her leadership and compassion for all students at a very young age.

Dr. Ching has been recognized by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents for her forty-plus years serving as an administrative and educational role model and champion of students. She also was recognized as the College of Education Distinguished Alumnae.

From the community, she received the Hawai'i Okinawan Association's Legacy. She has also won awards from NASPA, the leading voice of student affairs with a network of over 15,000 members at over 2,100 campuses in all fifty states and countries across the globe.

In all her endeavors, Dr. Ching exemplifies inspirational leadership through compassion and kindness. Congratulations, Dr. Ching!
-*Lynn Shoji, Delta*

New member welcome Scholarship Ho'omaika'i 'ana!

Gamma Chapter welcomes *Ashley Caltagirone* to DKG.

Ashley Caltagirone grew up in New Jersey, right outside of Atlantic City. She would later graduate with a Bachelor's degree from Rowan University and be certified in Elementary Education, specializing in reading. Before starting her career in Maui, Ashley was a substitute teacher for various grade levels from preschool to 12th grade. Ashley is currently in her 11th year at Kahului Elementary School. She started out teaching 2nd grade and was a reading support teacher for grades 3–5 and now is in her 8th year of teaching 3rd grade.

Ashley has a true passion for working with children! She strives to help each child progress in all areas of their development, including cognitive, behavioral, social, and emotional. Educating the whole child is something she accepts daily. She aims to create a community of learners that nurtures that growth in a positive, fun environment that encourages a sense of belonging and connection.

When not teaching, Ashley enjoys spending time with her husband and two kids, ages 4 and 6. She loves to watch her kids' sports (soccer and gymnastics). When she's not shuttling her kids to and from their extracurricular and social activities, she enjoys reading, crafting, music, relaxing at the beach, and spending time with friends and family.

-Teri Evangelista, *Gamma*



This year, the Eva Phillip Curry State Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to *Ellen Tanoura (Mu)*. Ellen submitted a detailed proposal to enhance the Kahauiki Village Children's Support Program. She and *Sharon Inamine (Mu)* have co-chaired this project since 2019, when Hawai'i State DKG partnered with Kahauiki Village to assist with educating its children through tutoring. The program relies on DKG volunteers from various chapters, and more participation is needed. The Curry Award will be used to purchase an Apple iPad to expand servicing through online connectivity.



Laura Luther and *Jenna George* are the 2023–2024 recipients of a \$1,000 Lucille Hodgins Selective Recruitment Grant.

Laura is a Master of Arts in Teaching, with a secondary science focus, candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo who expects to graduate in May 2024. With more than 10 years of experience with preschool to college students in formal and informal educational settings locally and nationally, Laura has progressively expanded her teaching skills and knowledge. She has already earned her substitute teacher certification. Laura's passion is conservation and ecosystems. Thus, her career goals are to impact students through science education with place-based ecology and Native Hawaiian management principles. Her effectiveness has already been recognized; she was offered a full-time teaching position when she had yet to complete her MAT. *Zeta* Chapter is anticipating her joining DKG shortly!



Jenna is a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student expecting to graduate with a Bachelor of Education in Secondary English in May 2024. She speaks of a lifelong commitment to the teaching profession, beginning in elementary school when she would use materials from her classes to teach her stuffed animals in imaginary classrooms. She strengthened her aptitude for teaching by seeking opportunities to learn more about what makes an effective educator. Most recently, Jenna has tutored at Kalākaua Middle School for two semesters. Her professional goal is to teach middle school English Language Arts and to nurture and challenge each student toward self-efficacy. She wishes to foster the confidence and belief in oneself to achieve anything.



On April 4, 2023, Jenna was notified in person and given the Hodgins award check by President Lori Furoyama (Mu) and three DKG members. The meeting took place at one of Jenna's college classes with permission from the instructor. In her thank you message, Jenna mentioned her grandmother was a member of a Colorado chapter of DKG!

-Winifred Tatsuta, *Zeta*

Request for an honorary member

The US Forum Ad Hoc Committee is asking for each chapter to consider State Senator Michelle Kidani as an honorary member of DKG. In addition to doing work in Hawai'i, she is also affiliated nationally with the following:

- In 2017, she was on the Steering Committee of the Education Commission of the States
- Member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- Chair and Board member of the Hispanic Caucus
- Co-chair of the Education Committee of the National Asian-Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators

Please discuss Senator Kidani in your Chapter meeting and then take a vote in support or rejection of her membership. Send your vote count to the Executive Board for next steps.

According to the DKG HSO By-Laws, Honorary Members will be recommended by chapters and elected by the State Executive Board. A four-fifths (4/5) vote of approval is required.

-Gwen Mau, Theta



MICHELLE KIDANI

HAWAII STATE SENATOR

BACKGROUND

- Staffer for Lee Donahue
- Neighborhood Board Member for Waipahu and Mililani in 2008
- Elected District 18 Senator in 2012
- Chairwoman of the Educational Committee, coving kindergarten to grade 12
- A member of the Ways and Means Committee
- Member of the Education Committee, Higher Education Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee as of 2023

EDUCATION

- Farrington High School
- Honolulu Business College
- Leeward Community College
- BS in Business Administration from Kennedy-Western University

KEY ISSUES

- Human trafficking
- Board of Education
- Child custody
- Victim counselor privileges
- Whales/Coral Reefs
- Cyber attack protection

BENEFITS

- Will allow someone in the State Legislature name recognition of our organization.
- May make it easier for our group to have access to new ideas for public education at all levels.
- Previously participated in legislative forums with the women of DKG in January 2019. She heard our concerns and ideas regarding pre-K.

MORE INFO

For more information, reach out to her aide, Danica Honda at d.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov

Kahauiki Village news

It was an exciting time for the children of Kahauiki Village (KV) on April 6, 2023. New Hope Chapel volunteers and DKG members planned fun activities. About 100 enthusiastic children turned out after school. They took pictures with the Easter Rabbit, played fun games, and participated in an Easter Egg Hunt! Thank you to the chapters for the generous donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy.



The DKG/KV partnership is moving on to a new phase! From tutoring children to holiday events, we are helping educate parents and adults to develop leadership to support their children better. Lance Jyo, Vice Principal of Moanalua Adult Education, spoke to an enthusiastic group on April 24, 2023. We have Kristina Leon and Patty Ruby to thank for that. There is much support for the program from the school. Classes will start this summer. Tutors are needed to help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 pm – 8 pm. They will be compensated. Please contact *Sharon Inamine (Mu)* at inamine.sharon@gmail.com if you have any questions or are willing to help. Volunteers are also needed.

-Ellen Tanoura and Sharon Inamine, Mu

White roses

Gladys Okada (Eta) was born September 17, 1931, and passed away on February 8, 2023. She joined Eta Chapter on Kauai in May 1978. Gladys taught in many elementary and middle schools on the west side of Kauai. She was a strong, supportive member and worked on many committees. She was Chapter Secretary from 1992–1994. Her two daughters and Eta lovingly remember her.
-Rebecca Frites, Eta



Gladys "Honey" Kekulanamu Alo Awai-Lennox (Beta) (12/6/1929 – 2/7/2023), received her wings and is amongst the elite figures of grace, strength, and hope before her; those for whom we are grateful, having made the world more beautiful and with more aloha.



Honey was born to lead. As a St. Andrew's Priory graduate and retiring as a Department of Education principal, her intelligence and devotion set a standard that erudite enthusiasts hope to one day personify. Honey's energy and life force was not limited to the education realm.

Athlete, leader, dancer, role model, matriarch, Beta sister—Honey poured her vigor, finesse, sass, warmth, power, aloha, and elegance into everything, and everything she did well.
-Zoe Green, Beta