



DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

November 22, 2022

Aloha Friends,

With Thanksgiving just a few days away, we are grateful for your support and friendship, as we emerge from the pandemic. The opportunity to gather once again has been particularly meaningful.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who traveled in 1959 to pay homage to his ancestral homeland, Ken, Jessica and Maggie Inouye visited Yame City in Fukuoka, Japan in late October. Senator was the oldest of four children of Hyotaro and Kame Inouye. His father Hyotaro lived in Yame City until he immigrated as a child with his parents to Hawaii aboard the S.S. City of Peking on July 24, 1899. The family came to work in the sugarcane plantation on Kauai, to help pay back a debt the family owed in their village. Hyotaro would send funds back to his family in Yame.



During their visit, Ken, Jessica and Maggie visited with distant relatives, paid their respects at family gravesites with relative Kazue Inoue who is 83 years old. Ken commented, "They had to leave such a beautiful and quiet place because of a fire. I always wanted to visit here." Maggie said, "It's an honor to be able to see and know my roots."



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From Fukuoka, the family traveled to Tokyo. Ken joined Jennifer Hirano, daughter of the late Irene Hirano Inouye at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. On July 24, 2021, First Lady Jill Biden dedicated the Irene Hirano Inouye and Daniel K. Inouye Room at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo. Due to COVID, Ken and Jennifer joined the event via video. During the trip last month, they were able to visit and see it in person - a very special moment.



The DKI Institute once again partnered with the Hawaii Independent Film Festival (HIFF), together with the Ted Stevens Foundation, for the Future Filmmakers program which invited young filmmakers (grades 6th to 12th) in Hawaii and Alaska to reflect on their own cultural traditions and to create a short film that would “Honor the Past to Build the Future.” There were 40 submissions, with 26 selected as Finalists.



Photography by Lila Lee. Courtesy of Hawai'i International Film Festival

After the finalist films were shown on the big screen at Kahala Consolidated Theaters, an awards luncheon was held at Waiwai Collective. This year's Youth Ambassador was Hawaii's own Aulii Cravalho. Aulii was born and raised in Mililani, and graduated from Kamehameha Schools. Cravalho first captured our hearts as the title role in *Moana*. During the luncheon, certificates and awards were presented by Ken and Maggie Inouye, along with Auli'i, and Jen May Pastores from HIFF. Aulii graciously answered questions from the student filmmakers as she shared tidbits of her own journey. She then took endless pictures with the students – a heartwarming gathering was enjoyed by all.

The winners are listed below. The showcase can be viewed online for free until November 27 at this link -- <https://hiff.org/events/futurefilmmakersshowcase/>. Viewers must click “virtual” selection at the bottom of this page to get a “ticket”. You will receive an email from Elevent with directions on watching the films.



Photography by Lila Lee. Courtesy of Hawai'i International Film Festival.

Winning films:

- 1st place High School -- HE'E NALU (Students: Tamzen Lim, Alina Otsuji, Luke Yoshiyama, Kellan Yamamoto, Kai Kennedy from Iolani School)
- 2nd place High School -- A FORGOTTEN STORY (Students: Archie Nitura, Tristan Jackson from Laupahoehoe Public Charter School)
- 1st place Middle School -- EMBRACE, NOT REJECT (Students: Rica Marie Ragasa, Reagan Chang, and Chazten Alvarado from Highlands Intermediate School)
- 2nd place Middle School -- BRINGING BACK OLD TRADITIONS (Students: Damien Paredes, Marc Olaes, Sky Yorimoto, and Isabella FitzGerald from Honouliuli Middle School)

DKII Special Awards:

- Middle School -- REFLECTING AND IMPROVING (by Shiley Levinson from SEEQS Middle School)
- High School – 2 awards
 1. LARRY KIMURA: THE LANGUAGE PIONEER THAT REVIVED 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I THROUGH THE RADIO (students Mālie Keaulaulani Agricula Nee, Kailani McLain from Kamehameha Schools Kapālama)
 2. LETTERS TO YOU (by Yana Lahoda, Iolani School)
- DKII Special Award to Alaskan Student Filmmaker -- THE STORIES OF MY KŪPUNA (by Kainoa Thole)



In closing, we are ecstatic with the election results – a big congratulations to Jill Tokuda, Hawaii’s next Congresswoman for the 2nd Congressional District. Jill worked closely with DKII over the past 10 years, leading many of our programs including the Talk Story sessions in Kakaako, U.S. Library of Congress in DC, HIFF Future Filmmakers and the christening and commissioning of the USS DANIEL INOUE in Bath, Maine and Pearl Harbor, respectively.

We are sad to see her leave our team but we are extremely proud and happy as Jill continues her service to our state, walking the very halls that our beloved Senator Inouye did so many years ago.



It is hard to believe that we will be observing the 10th year anniversary of the Senator’s passing on December 17th. As we each count our blessings and give thanks, have a wonderful Thanksgiving – big hugs to all!

Jennifer, Sara and DKII