
Honoring
PATRICIA SAIKI
Distinguished Alumna



Throughout her life, Hilo-born **Patricia “Pat” (Fukuda) Saiki** has consistently broken new ground in such fields as education, politics and business—both in Hawaii and nationally. After graduating from Hilo High School in 1948, Saiki earned her way through college by working as a flight attendant, babysitter and sales clerk. She received a B.S. degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1952.

Saiki taught at Punahou, Kaimuki Intermediate and Kalani High schools on Oahu. She also taught in Toledo, Ohio, where she accompanied her late husband, Stanley M. Saiki, for his medical school residency.

It was her desire to improve education that motivated Saiki to enter the world of politics. She began by working with the Hawaii Government Employees Association to form a teacher's chapter and became its president.

Saiki was elected to the 1968 Hawaii Constitutional Convention and to the State House of Representatives, where she served three terms from 1968-74, then was a member of the State Senate from 1974-82. During that time, Saiki spearheaded work on Hawaii’s Equal Rights Amendment and the state’s first-place ratification of the federal ERA.

Saiki continued to work tirelessly to improve public education in the state and the nation. She chaired the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (1978-1980) and was a national board member of Funding and Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (1982-1984).

In 1986, Pat Saiki was elected to the U.S. Congress, where she served from 1987-91. She was then appointed Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration by President George H.W. Bush. In 1993, Saiki taught at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

After an unsuccessful run for Governor of Hawaii against Democrat Ben Cayetano in 1994, Saiki remained active in local and national Republican Party politics and as a board member of numerous community service organizations. She has been a member of the East-West Center Board of Governors since 2003.

They raised five children: Stanley, Jr., Sandra, Margaret, Stuart and Laura.
