

May 15, 2014, 5:46pm HST Updated: May 16, 2014, 6:14am HST

Scholarship in honor of Hawaii Sen. Daniel Akaka raises more than \$1M



Courtesy Sen. Daniel Akaka

U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, is seen delivering his last speech on the Senate floor on Dec. 12, 2012, in this still from the Senate Recording Studio broadcast. The University of Hawaii said Thursday that more than \$1.1 million has been raised for a scholarship named in honor of the retired senator.

Staff Pacific Business News

More than \$1.1 million has been raised for a University of Hawaii scholarship named in honor of Hawaii Sen. Daniel Akaka, who retired from the U.S. Senate in 2012, the university said Thursday.

"It is our pleasure to announce the establishment of the Senator Daniel K. Akaka Regents Scholarship Endowment, which will help create the next generation of Native Hawaiian leaders who can carry on the Senator's legacy of selfless service and commitment to his community," Walter A. Dods Jr., co-chair of the Senator Daniel K. Akaka Regents Scholarship Endowment Committee, said in a statement.

Dods is joined on the committee by Lawrence Okinaga, Bert Kobayashi Sr. and Joan M. Ohashi.

"The scholarship honors the senator's passionate commitment to growing Native Hawaiian and Hawaii's scholars and leaders," Okinaga said in a statement. "Throughout his career from public school teacher and administrator to public office, Senator Akaka was intent on finding solutions and strengthening the futures of America's native peoples through vehicles including education, access to opportunity, and financial literacy."

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has donated \$300,000, while Kamehameha Schools has donated \$250,000. So far, \$1.14 million has been raised, the university said.

"Since the 1930s, when members of my family first started attending and graduating from the University of Hawaii, it has played a pivotal role in our lives and ability to serve our community with the spirit of aloha." Akaka said in the statement.

Requirements for the scholarship say that recipients must first be first-year, incoming freshman graduates of a Hawaii high school and "remarkable" extracurricular activities. Preference is given to students of Hawaiian ancestry, the university said.

© 2014 American City Business Journals. All rights reserved. Use of this Site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement (updated 12/23/13) and Privacy Policy (updated 12/23/13).

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2014/05/15/scholarship-in-honor-of-hawaii-sen-daniel-akaka.html>