



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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DANIEL K. INOUYE INSTITUTE AND HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE SHORT FILM CONTEST FOR HAWAII STUDENTS

Finalists will be invited to attend the Future Filmmaker Luncheon and Panel featuring Actor Harry Shum Jr. of Crazy Rich Asians and Writer/Producer Phil Chung of YOMYOMF

Honolulu, HI –The [Daniel K. Inouye Institute](#) (DKII), a fund of the [Hawai‘i Community Foundation](#), together with the [Hawaii International Film Festival](#) (HIFF) has launched a partnership to encourage middle and high school students statewide to enter its short-film contest by creating a film inspired by Senator Inouye’s [historic speech](#) at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Senator Inouye, a decorated veteran who served in World War II as part of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, was the first person of color to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. In that historic moment, Senator Inouye boldly addressed lingering racism in America or what he called the “immorality” of the Vietnam War.

Student filmmakers will get to choose one of four themes or excerpts from Senator Inouye’s speech. Filmmakers will use their chosen theme or excerpt to interpret or use as inspiration to produce a short film (no more than 3 minutes in length). The content of the film can be open to all genres and themes, either fiction or non-fiction. Students are allowed to submit group projects with a group limit of five students.

Finalists’ short films will be presented during the **38th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival** (Nov. 8-18, 2018) during a special presentation screening as part of its annual Student Showcase. They will also receive industry filmmaker badges, providing unprecedented access to the HIFF.

“We are honored to partner with DKII on this initiative and are proud to continue our work in cultivating the next generation of Hawaii filmmakers,” states **Beckie Stocchetti**, HIFF executive director. “It is critical to our mission that we expand opportunities for youth to leverage their voices to tell their own entertaining, authentic stories and participate thoughtfully in media making.”

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Finalists will also be invited to attend a Future Filmmaker Luncheon and Panel, featuring guest speaker **Harry Shum, Jr.**, who has won a Screen Actor's Guild award for his performance on *Glee*, numerous awards and accolades for his role on *Shadowhunters*, and most recently has appeared on the blockbuster hit *Crazy Rich Asians*. Producer and writer **Phil Chung** of *You Offend Me, You Offend My Family (YOMYOMF)* will serve as the moderator for the panel.

"Being able to interact and engage with talent of this caliber can be life changing for these aspiring young filmmakers. It can open doors and set a path forward. Ensuring students in Hawaii had access to every possible opportunity was a top priority for the Senator, which is why programs like this are so important," said **Jennifer Sabas**, director of the Daniel K. Inouye Institute Fund at the HCF.

In addition to being able to interact with these internationally recognized leaders in the film industry, the DKII will be awarding prizes to the top two student films.

The Grand Prize student filmmaker will receive a \$250 cash award and their school will win a "Get Out and GO" Box which includes a GoPro HERO6 and a \$50 Best Buy gift card. The Second Place award includes \$100 cash for the student filmmaker and a GoPRO HERO for their school.

Submissions must be received through [Withoutabox](#) by October 15, 2018 in order to be considered.

For more information, please visit <https://www.hiff.org/education/view/daniel-k-inouye-institute-student-film-initiative>.

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About the Daniel K. Inouye Institute

The Daniel K. Inouye Institute was established in 2013 to preserve the legacy of Sen. Inouye; promote STEM education, civics learning and international educational-cultural exchanges; and establish a repository of the Asian American/Pacific experience. To learn more about the Inouye Institute and Sen. Inouye, visit [DanielKInouyeInstitute.org](#).

About Hawai'i Community Foundation

With over 100 years of community service, the [Hawai'i Community Foundation](#) (HCF) is the leading philanthropic institution in the state. HCF is a steward of more than 850 funds, including more than 250 scholarship funds, created by donors who desire to transform lives and improve communities. In 2017, HCF distributed more than \$59 million in grants and contracts statewide, including more than \$6 million in scholarships. HCF also serves as a resource on community issues and trends in the nonprofit sector.