

ODKF Working to Increase Awards Program

By Gretchen Duplanty, ODKF Board Member

Last year was the most successful one ever for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation and its award program.

ODKF awarded a total of \$100,000 in donations—\$50,000 each for college scholarships and athletic grants—representing a 20 percent increase over the year prior and easily the most funds ever given out by ODKF.

Thirty-one college-bound students from four islands received scholarships to help advance their education. Looking more closely at the awardees, one sees that 20 graduated from Hawaii's public schools, 19 were first-time ODKF awardees and 18 were women. What that really says is ODKF is fulfilling its mission and touching the lives of young men and women statewide who have earned our support.

ODKF also presented athletic grants to 29 awardees—13 individuals and 16 community organizations. From events like the venerated Macfarlane Regatta to a nonprofit like Access-Surf Hawaii helping to bring surfing to the physically challenged, ODKF is proudly sharing its aloha in Duke's name.

OCC members Dr. Malia Kamisugi and Judy Pietsch have done a tremendous job as directors on the ODKF board, along with past director Sharon Brown, in shaping the policies of how the board offers its support. And because ODKF is striving to do more, we have increased our board size from 15 to 18 members, adding three more professionals who are committed to helping ODKF grow and succeed.

Speaking for the entire board, we deeply appreciate the backing of the Outrigger Canoe Club and the generosity of its members. The OCC membership is the lifeblood of our donations program and that support is clearly making a positive impact in the lives of young people and organizations that benefit from our funding.

This year, ODKF is confident of doing even more to help those in Hawaii who look to us for assistance. We hope (fingers crossed) to once again increase our awards for scholarships and grants.

In the coming months, we will be sponsoring the Duke's Water Sports Day for the Boys and Girls Club and help be a source of encouragement for the young graduates of the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy.

As summer is winding down, Duke's Oceanfest will take center stage in Waikiki. Mark your calendars for August 18-26 and plan to join us as we celebrate surfing, surfing and more surfing, along with paddleboarding, volleyball, surf polo and other festivities in the heart of Waikiki.

It's shaping up to be a great year for ODKF. Aloha and mahalo to the members for the Outrigger Canoe Club for helping us succeed.