



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
FOUNDATION

Jonathan Y. Okamura

Jonathan Y. Okamura Undergraduate Student Endowed Scholarship

REASON FOR GIFT

This scholarship was established to support undergraduate students from Hawai'i with an interest in Filipino or Filipino American culture to pursue their education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

ABOUT THE DONOR

Jonathan Y. Okamura was born on Maui in 1949 and, after his family moved to California in 1964, graduated from Cupertino High School. A California State Scholarship enabled him to attend and graduate from the University of Southern California with a double major in mathematics and anthropology in 1971. He then pursued graduate study in anthropology at the University of London and earned a PhD degree in 1983. Dr. Okamura's dissertation research on Filipino immigrant ethnicity was conducted in Kalihi where he lived with an immigrant Ilokano family for two years. One of the primary reasons that he created this scholarship was to express his deep gratitude to the Filipino American community in Hawai'i for their long-term assistance and support that enabled him to engage in research on issues concerning them.



After teaching and conducting research in the Philippines for three years in the mid-1980s, Dr. Okamura began working at UH Mānoa in 1989, including with the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity. In 2000, he was hired in the Department of Ethnic Studies and taught courses, researched and wrote on Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, ethnic identity, and race and ethnicity in Hawai'i. After retiring in 2020 as professor emeritus, Dr. Okamura established this endowed scholarship to support students from Hawai'i interested in Filipino or Filipino American culture to earn their bachelor's degree at UH Mānoa.