



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
FOUNDATION

Dorothy Aspinwall

Dorothy Aspinwall Endowed Scholarship

REASON FOR GIFT

Jean Toyama is establishing this endowment in honor of her first French professor, Dorothy Aspinwall, to support students in the Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas with an emphasis in French Studies.

As a freshman at the University of Hawai'i in 1960 I was very fortunate to have Dorothy Aspinwall as my first French professor. I loved the class and one day she asked, "Miss Yamasaki, how would you like to go to France?" Of course, I said "yes." She changed my life. It took me two years to get to France, but she showed me how. Later she suggested I get my MA at Purdue, where they had the leading language lab at that time. I was off and running. When I came home from Irvine as an almost PhD, she helped me get a teaching position at UH Mānoa. It wasn't easy, but I survived. Before she retired I was tenured and a professor. We would see each other periodically. If I remember correctly, she told me she wanted to see a "local" person teaching French at UH as a professor. It was good for the town/gown relationship. I want her to be remembered as a teacher who helped students and was even able to change their lives. ~ Jean Toyama

ABOUT THE HONOREE



The University of Hawai'i foreign language program as it stands today was originally initiated by two leaders in the field of European languages. One of whom was Dr. Dorothy B. Aspinwall. In the Spring of 1955, Dr. Aspinwall received a Ford Foundation grant to conduct a research tour of mainland universities in an effort to improve language teaching methodology at the University of Hawai'i. Successful completion of this research project enabled Dr. Aspinwall to set the course of the University's audio-lingual programs by pioneering the first language lab installation on the fourth floor of George Hall. This initial installation was completed in 1956, two years before the National Defense Education Act. Again in 1962, it was her leadership that enabled UH to acquire a 98-position broadcast laboratory located in Webster Hall.