

# The Senate State of Hawaii

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEO NAKAMA 2002 HAWAII SWIMMING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

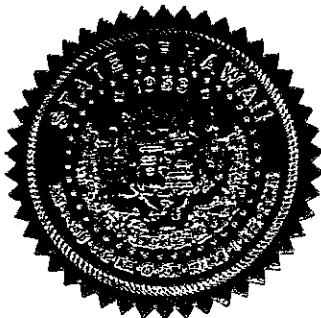
The Swimming Hall of Fame was founded in 2002 by the Hawaii Swimming Legacy Project to memorialize Hawaii's rich heritage of water sports and recognize swimmers, divers, and water polo players who have made important contributions to their sports. Its mission is to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the achievements of Hawaii's swimmers, divers, and water polo athletes. In order to commemorate Hawaii athletes' achievements in water sports, volunteers have gathered, preserved, and disseminated oral histories, photographs, and memorabilia about Hawaii's aquatic sports.

KEO NAKAMA is one of Hawaii's greatest swimmers. Keo was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame in 2002. He won six titles at the Australian National in 1939, sweeping all five freestyle events and the 330-yard medley. Keo then garnered five gold medals at the 1940 Pan American Games, but his Olympic dreams were curtailed by the advent of WWII. His outstanding swimming achievements also include holding twenty-seven national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) titles in distances ranging from 110 yards to 1500 meters. During his three varsity seasons with the Ohio State University swim team, where he served as captain the last two years, the team won Big Ten and NCAA championships.

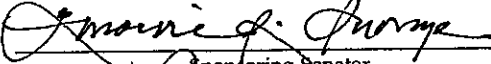

Keo set two world records in swimming. The first, earned when he was twenty-two, was for swimming the fastest mile. Then, at age forty-one, Keo became the first person to swim across the twenty-seven mile Kaiwi Channel from Molokai to Oahu. In 1975, in recognition of his achievements as one of the world's greatest swimmers, Keo was inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Swimmer.

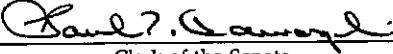
In addition to his swimming feats, Keo was a talented baseball player, captaining the Ohio State University baseball team. For decades, he was the only Ohio State athlete to be a team captain in two varsity sports. After earning a Master's degree from Ohio State, Keo returned to Hawaii as a high school swim coach, teacher, and athletic director. Other accomplishments include being elected to the Hawaii state legislature in 1964.

The Senate of the State of Hawaii pays tribute to KEO NAKAMA for his 2002 induction to the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame, recognizes his many achievements and contributions to the sport of swimming, and extends its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.



Done this 7th day of December 2005  
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii

  
Sponsoring Senator  
  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate