



The Senate State of Hawaii

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN "POKEY" WATSON 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.

LILLIAN "POKEY" WATSON is one of Hawaii's greatest swimmers. Pokey was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame in 2002. Her impressive swimming career began when she won the first of twenty-two national championships when she was thirteen years old.

One of her greatest accomplishments was winning a gold medal at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo in the 4x100 meter freestyle relay. At age fourteen, Pokey was the youngest American swimmer to win a gold medal at the Olympics, a feat that remains unbroken to this day. In 1968, Pokey competed at the Olympics in Mexico City, winning a gold medal in the 200-meter backstroke and breaking the existing World Record by 2.6 seconds.

Another feat was setting numerous national and world swimming records. Pokey set six individual world records in swimming, and contributed to twenty relay team world records. She also set thirteen individual American records, along with twenty-nine relay team American records.

After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1972, Pokey coached swimming at a private girls' high school. Later, she coached swimming at the University of Southern California.

In 1984, in recognition of her achievements as one of the world's greatest swimmers, Pokey was inducted to the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Swimmer.

The Senate of the State of Hawaii pays tribute to LILLIAN "POKEY" WATSON for her 2002 induction to the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame, recognizes her 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