



NEWS ADVISORY
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Japanese Language Majors Only U.S. Recipients of Prestigious Scholarship



JiaJie He, Deputy Consul General Takayuki Shinozawa, and Yunmi Kim
(photo by Lisa Sakamoto)

JiaJie He and Yunmi Kim, Japanese language majors in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, were selected as recipients of the 2018-19 Monbukagakusho Scholarship from the Japanese government's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). They are the only U.S. recipients this year.

The Deputy Consul General of Japan in Honolulu presented the scholarship to He and Kim in an August 30 ceremony. The awards provide tuition, living expenses, and stipends.

He, a junior double-majoring in Japanese and travel industry management (TIM), will study at Nagoya University. Originally from China, he moved to Hawaii about 10 years ago and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He is excited to receive the Monbukagakusho Scholarship, which he says is a "perfect fit," considering his love for Japan and its culture.

He notes that TIM and Japanese have "hospitality" in common. He values and admires Japanese *omotenashi* ("hospitality") and hopes to apply that same high standard to the travel industry, where he may one day work. He intends to use what he gleans from Japan and the Monbukagakusho scholarship experience in future endeavors, whether in Japan or the United States.

Kim, a senior double majoring in Japanese and biology, will study at Doshish University in Kyoto. Though born in Japan, her family moved to the U.S. when she was just two years old. A graduate of McKinley High School, she developed a keen interest in biology because of its pathway to the medical field. She understands the need for bilingual medical professionals for Japanese-only speaking patients and she hopes to learn about the Japanese medical profession.

Miki Ogasawara, MEXT Coordinator and EALL Japanese instructor, couldn't be more proud of He and Kim. She knows that the experience will give them superb opportunities to gain the highest level of language proficiency.

The department's record of student recipients is extraordinary and testament to the encouragement and standards of excellence set forth by Ogasawara and her colleagues. Last year, Raymond DeLang and Jake Yasumori received the scholarship, and the year before that, Joseph Cardello was the only U.S. recipient.

The College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature (one of the four Arts & Sciences colleges) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa offers a broad curriculum in English, foreign and heritage languages and literatures, second language studies, and linguistics. Its Asia and Pacific focused curricula is unique in the nation and its faculty regularly teaches more than 25 languages.

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