

THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1965, serves as the state's official arts agency and pioneered a national model in 1967 by legislating that one percent of construction appropriations be used to fund art acquisitions. This initiative evolved into the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989, supporting the Art in Public Places Program, which aims to enhance public spaces, foster visual arts awareness, support local artists, and celebrate Hawai'i's diverse cultural heritage. The program acquires and commissions artworks for specific public locations, guided by Art Advisory Committees comprising administrators, community members, and experts, with oversight and coordination provided by program staff.



DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

Keith A. Regan, *Comptroller*
Meoh-Leng Silliman, *Deputy Comptroller*



HAWAII
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ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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	Keith Yamamoto	

The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts presents

THE OFFICIAL
PORTRAIT OF
GOVERNOR
DAVID Y. IGE

An oil portrait by artist
KIRK KUROKAWA



CAPITOL MODERN: THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM
250 South Hotel Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

September 21, 2025



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kirk Kurokawa, a local boy of Hawaiian, Japanese, and Chinese descent, was born and raised on Maui. He received a BFA with distinction in Illustration from the California College of Arts and Crafts. In 2001, he returned home to Maui, became a self-taught oil painter and pursued his dream of becoming a fine artist. Kurokawa's paintings focus predominantly on the "simple, everyday life moments" and have been showcased in various exhibitions throughout the state.

Although he often paints the native birds, flowers and locals of Hawai'i, he is best known for his portraiture. He has been in every installment of the Schaefer Portrait Challenge, and was awarded the Juror's Choice Award in 2006, and the People's Choice Award in 2015 and 2022. He is also the first and only native Hawaiian to paint the official Portraits of the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the late United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

WORKING WITH THE ARTIST – REFLECTIONS ON THE PORTRAIT PROCESS BY GOVERNOR DAVID IGE

Having your official portrait painted is a daunting and intimidating task. What you wear, the pose, and setting will forever speak for you. But seeing artist Kirk Kurokawa's prior works filled me with excitement and reassured me that my portrait was entrusted to very talented hands.

Working with Kirk was an immense honor. My initial apprehension about the portrait quickly dissipated due to Kirk's easygoing and patient demeanor. He was a true joy to collaborate with, making sure that our family - Dawn, Lauren, Matthew, and Amy - would be included in this memorable experience.

Kirk's meticulous approach began with comprehensive photographs, eliminating the need for prolonged sittings. He helped with every aspect of the process and different perspectives in the chosen setting. From these images, he crafted preliminary sketches and color studies, diligently working in his studio to bring the canvas to life with each thoughtful brushstroke.

PROGRAM

Call to Commence Ceremony:	Shishimai and Okinawa Sousaku Eisa <i>Hawai'i Okinawa Creative Arts</i> <i>Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko Hawai'i</i>
Welcome:	Ryan Kalei Tsuji
Remarks:	Robbie Alm
Remarks:	Libby Char
Remarks:	Suzanne Case
Remarks:	David Lassner
Introduction of Artist:	Kamakani Konia <i>Art in Public Places Program Manager</i> <i>Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and Arts</i>
Artist:	Kirk Kurokawa
Address:	The Honorable David Y. Ige <i>Governor of Hawai'i (2014 – 2022)</i>
Blessing of Portrait:	Kahu Kenneth Makuakāne
Formal Unveiling of Portrait:	
Closing Remarks:	Ryan Kalei Tsuji



The Ige Family