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Documentary on Patsy Mink Premieres at Hawaii International Film Festival

HONOLULU - The world premiere of *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority*, a one-hour documentary about the late U.S. Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink, will be held at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, Regal Theatres Dole Cannery 18, during the 2008 Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival. The film has been selected for the festival's Documentary Feature Competition.

Mink was the first woman of color in the U.S. Congress, where she served for 24 years. A tireless champion for gender equity, she co-authored Title IX, later renamed the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, the legislation that opened up higher education and athletics for women.

Produced by Kimberlee Bassford, an award-winning independent filmmaker and owner of Making Waves Films LLC, *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority* is the first documentary to explore the life and times of Congresswoman Mink—from her childhood on a Maui sugar plantation to her years in Congress as a champion for women, children, families and workers. "Patsy's story captures the spirit of a generation of trailblazing women and shows that one person—armed with vision, drive, and perseverance—can make a difference," said Bassford.

"Part of my attraction to Patsy's story is that I am also a woman of color," said Bassford, who is Chinese and Filipino. "Patsy shattered the stereotype of the 'typical' Asian-American woman. She's a powerful inspiration for marginalized people, especially women of color, that their voices do count."

"I never doubted that I would have the opportunity to go to college—even graduate school—and to play sports," said Bassford, who was born after Title IX became law. "Women of my generation take for granted the very things that Patsy Mink fought for."

The documentary's title is taken from Mink's quote: "It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. But it is more often more important to be ***ahead of the majority*** and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary."

Bassford was born and raised in Hawaii and is a 1995 graduate of Punahou School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a master's in journalism from the University of California at Berkeley. She previously produced *Unnatural Causes*, a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) documentary series about socioeconomic and racial disparities in health, and another PBS documentary series, *The Meaning of Food*, which explored the social significance of food. Bassford's directorial debut with *Cheerleader*, a short documentary about a squad of young California cheerleaders in its quest for the national cheerleading championships, won the Student Academy Award in Documentary and CINE Golden Eagle and screened at the Cannes Film Festival and on HBO Family.

Making Waves Films LLC is a documentary production company in Honolulu, which focuses on producing films that advance social justice, strengthen interpersonal connections, and deepen understanding of the world.

For tickets to HIFF events, call (808) 550-8457 (TIKS), fax at (808) 536-2707, or online at www.hiff.org.

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