

## Travels with Rose and Aleta

Rosemary Woullard and I decided to visit the Southwest Regional Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our reasoning was, “well, why not?!”

We had a wonderful time, of course, and the location was picture perfect. The conference was great, with the recurring theme of sharing cultural stories while honoring and respecting diversity. While all the major speakers included this in their presentations, while discussing the Hawaiian way of life within their individual topics. I learned that “A-lo-ha” could be translated as exchanging air with another person, keeping us all connected. Those connections drove this conference.

I felt there were three major themes in the sessions: DKG, teaching, and culture. Rose and I visited all of these. I did focus on the cultural sessions, while Rose included several teaching sessions. Rose and I took a *hula* class with Jennie, a DKG Hawaii sister and made *leis* from eyelash yarn; we learned Japanese fabric folding called *furoshiki*; Rosemary went to a session on “Sticky Tape” Learning; and I attended a Japanese Tea Ceremony.

At every turn in the conference area, we were met with the views of the ocean at Waikiki Beach. We breakfasted by the water, and took lunch there, as well. We dined with great musicians entertaining us. We did escape one day to tour the island via a great tour service offered on the DKG website through the hotel. Our tour guide (Haaloha) was native Hawaiian, and he presented our tour from the native Hawaiian point of view. We shopped, we ate, we met, and we enjoyed.

We also brought back some different ways of doing things. I hope this narrative encourages readers to step out of their comfort zones, and experience other aspects of DKG by attending conferences outside of the Southeast Region.