

MAZIE K. HIRONO  
HAWAII

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY &  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS &  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Yellen:

Last year Congress passed the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020 (CCCRA), which authorized the Treasury Secretary to honor prominent women by depicting them on commemorative quarters. As you continue to make your selections, I request that you consider three women from Hawaii who represent diverse backgrounds—**Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, Mary Kawena Pukui, and Edith Kanakaole**. During their lifetimes, all three women made meaningful contributions in their respective fields. Each woman would be an excellent choice to be featured.

Under CCCRA, the Secretary is responsible for selecting women to be depicted on commemorative quarters issued between 2022 and 2025. CCCRA specifies that these selections should include women who have made meaningful contributions to “suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and arts,” and that the quarters “should honor women from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds.” The Secretary can select up to five women per year.

Recently, the U.S. Mint announced the names of the first two women who will be featured—American writer Maya Angelou, and U.S. astronaut Sally Ride. Both women are excellent choices. With your remaining selections, you have a chance to choose three other women who would be excellent choices based on their diverse backgrounds and the significant contributions they made in their fields:

- **Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink** was a trailblazing U.S. politician, attorney, and civil rights leader whose advocacy has advanced gender equity for generations of women and girls.

- **Mary Kawena Pukui** was a prominent Native Hawaiian scholar, author, composer, and dancer. Her translations and compositions have sustained the Hawaiian language and culture for generations.
- **Edith Kanakaole** was a Native Hawaiian educator, dancer, and entertainer. Every year she is celebrated during the Merrie Monarch Festival, which is held at the Edith Kanakaole Pavilion.

These names were previously shared with the U.S. Mint as part of the Treasury Department's formal consultation with the Bipartisan Women's Caucus. I appreciate your consideration of their accomplishments as you continue to make your selections for women to be featured on commemorative quarters.

Sincerely,



MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator

CC: David J. Ryder, Director, United States Mint