

# Kitty Dukakis meets isle citizens

□ She tells them  
her husband won't  
forget the elderly

By Richard Borreco  
and Jeanne Mariani  
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Saying she is looking forward to a chance to "swim and fall asleep in the sun" on Maui, Kitty Dukakis spent today campaigning in Honolulu for her husband, Democratic presidential nominee, Michael Dukakis.

This morning before a crowd of about 200 at the Lanakila Senior Citizens Center the candidate's wife promised that her husband would not forget the elderly.

"Social Security is not just another program, Michael and Lloyd Bentsen have promised that Social Security will be kept and that includes the cost-of-living allowances," she said during a 10-minute speech this morning.

If her politics weren't enough to win over the enthusiastic crowd, Mrs. Dukakis had the senior citizens cheering when she was coaxed on stage for a quick hula lesson.

Mrs. Dukakis was joined by Hawaii's first lady Lynne Waihee and former First Lady Jean Ariyoshi in a brief hula dance called the "Queen's Hula" which was taught by Lanakila dance instructor Mary Cash.

All three kicked off their shoes and joined in the fun.

"I am more reserved than most people so that was traumatic," said Lynne Waihee, who added that she never learned to do a hula.

Before her speech, Mrs. Dukakis said she had "dreamed about coming to Hawaii."

"I had heard about Hawaii, since I was a little girl...it is more elusive, I suppose because it is more far away," she said in an interview with the Star-Bulletin.

Mrs. Dukakis said she wanted to work as the nation's first lady to help the homeless, work on immigrant resettlement programs, support the arts and help preserve open space.

"I am a strong woman, I care very much about people and about issues," she said.

Looking to today's debate between the two vice presidential contenders, Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and Dan Quayle, Mrs. Dukakis said that Quayle has to be considered "a strong debater."

But she added that "nobody has ever questioned my husband's choice of a vice presidential candidate."

Tonight Mrs. Dukakis attends two fund-raising events, one for the national presidential campaign at the Kahala Hilton and then a state Democratic Party rally at Aloha Tower.

She flies to Maui on a chartered jet this evening and will be able to relax until tomorrow afternoon



Kitty Dukakis, right, kicks off her shoes and joins Hawaii's First Lady Lynne Waihee, left, and former First Lady Jean Ariyoshi in a dance taught by Lanakila Senior Citizens Center instructor Mary Cash.

By Terry Luke, Star-Bulletin

when she will put in an appearance at the Maui County Fair and another small fund-raiser for Dukakis supporters on the Valley Isle.

She will fly to California Friday, spend the evening in San Francisco before going to Washington on Saturday.

Last night about 300 people, including Gov. John Waihee and his wife, Lynne and former Gov. George Ariyoshi and his wife, Jean, were on hand when Mrs. Dukakis' chartered jet landed at Hemmeyer Aviation's private terminal on Lagoon Drive.

The crowd desperately tried to

keep time as they shouted, "Kit-tee, Kit-tee, Kit-tee," waving miniature American flags and ti leaves for good luck as the private jet taxied into the terminal.

Some people came with leis and letters, and others, like 78-year-old Selma Rosenberg, came with gifts.

"I have a beautiful plaque for

her," she said, clutching a box wrapped in tapa-print paper. "It says aloha on it, and it has beautiful dried flowers all over it."

Rosenberg, with a smile on her face and a colorful haku lei around her head, said, "If my prayers are answered, she will be the next first lady of this country."

Waihee echoed Rosenberg's sentiments.

"When this is all over," Waihee said, "we hope she returns to Hawaii with President Dukakis."

Mrs. Dukakis took the stage wearing a red dress and sporting many leis.

"It's just very special to me to be the one chosen to be with you," she told the group. "This is my first visit to your state, and when I told my husband I was coming here, he, indeed, was jealous."

She also took the opportunity to put in a plug for three of Hawaii's major Democratic candidates.

"As a woman, I am extremely happy you have three outstanding Democratic women on your team," said the Massachusetts first lady. "Mary Bitterman for Congress, Marilyn Bornhorst for mayor and JoAnn Yukimura for mayor of Kauai."

Although this was just a campaign pit-stop for Mrs. Dukakis, state Democratic Party chairman Jack Richardson said it is a shot in the arm for the party.

"It's the first time in my memory that we had a presidential candidate or the candidate's wife visit Hawaii," Richardson said. "We're way out here and sometimes we think we're forgotten. This visit really strengthens the unity of the Democratic Party, and we're hoping it will have a coattail effect for our candidates."