



Kalāheo High School Foundation
and Alumni Association

Alumni Spotlight*

**April
2019**

School Edition

**Robin Lung — Film Producer/Director/Writer/Editor
Class of 1978**



Hawai'i's First Home, a 30-minute documentary for PBS Hawai'i about Hawai'i's historic governor's mansion and home of Queen Lili'uokalani (aired December 2008). She was the associate producer for the national PBS documentary *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority* (aired October 2008), Hawai'i unit producer for acclaimed film *Vivan Las Antipodas!*, unit producer for NOVA's *Killer Typhoon*, and producer/director of the feature documentary *Finding Kukan* which has won awards at Hawaii International Film Festival 2016, CAAMFest 2017, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2017, and the UMass Boston Film Series. In 2015, she was selected as one of four documentary fellows for the NALIP ARC diverse female filmmaker residency.

A member of Kalāheo's third graduating class, Robin Lung recently announced that her film, *Finding Kukan*, was included in the American Library Association's list of 15 outstanding films released on video within the past two year. "We're thrilled to be included," Lung says, because the list "calls attention to films that make a significant contribution to the world of video."

Locally, *Finding Kukan* was broadcast on PBS Hawaii and was featured at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's 2017 Living History Day which highlighted the role of film and photography in documenting and preserving the events of World War II.

Lung says her Kalaheo High School photography teacher James Funasaki was an early influence. "He turned me on to the magic of creating images through a lens."

Married to artist Paul Levitt, Lung resides right here in Kailua and travels frequently to satisfy a wide-ranging curiosity and share her films. — Martha L. Robertson

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A graduate of Stanford University and Hunter College in NYC, Lung discovered her filmmaking calling after successful careers in book publishing and higher education. A passion for mystery novels led her to Li Ling-Ai, the subject of her film. Ling-Ai was the uncredited female producer of *Kukan*, the Academy Award winning color documentary about World War II China. Lung's documentary creates an unforgettable portrait of a female filmmaker pioneer and sheds light on the long history of racial and gender discrimination behind the camera.



**FINDING KUKAN chosen for
American Library Association's
Notable Films for Adults List!**

Lung is a fourth-generation Chinese American who was raised in Hawai'i. She has a 16-year history of bringing untold minority and women's stories to film.

She made her directorial debut with *Washington Place*:

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***Alumni Spotlight is a series of articles to encourage excellence and promote school pride. If you read this article, please send comments to mrobert575@aol.com**