

**The Honorable Patricia Saiki**  
U.S. Representative of Hawaii (1987–1991)

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Joining the Republican Party**

Representative Saiki talks about her decision to join the Republican Party.  
*Interview recorded September 20, 2018*

Well, this is the interesting part. The Democratic Party and my Democrat friends of course wanted me to join their effort. And my attitude was, "You're in control. This state needs two party representation. I don't want to be a creature of your bureaucracy. I want to be a loyal opposition. I want to provide a different strain of thought, if you will. And I want to work with you, not against you, but I do want to have an independence and if the Republican Party can give me that independence, I will join the Republican Party instead." So I guess this independent streak came through, and I became a Republican.