



REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AQUINO

WAIPAHU COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

District 38



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Aloha Neighbors,

I am proud and honored to showcase several individuals who have made considerable contributions to our community, the state and our country.



First and foremost, the State Legislature held its annual "Medal of Honor" Ceremony on March 25th. This ceremony awarded the Hawaii Medal of Honor to the United States Military Service Members with Hawaii connections killed in action while serving in dangerous, volatile, and unstable areas

of the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan. I extend a heartfelt appreciation to these warriors and their families for their selfless act of bravery and sacrifice.

Secondly, several individuals in our community received awards and recognition from various organizations. Congratulations to Waipahu High School (WHS) Principal Keith Hayashi who received recognition from the Hawaii State House of Representatives and WHS Hawaiian Language teacher Kumu Rebecca Sanborn, 2014 Native Hawaiian Educator of the Year. Also, cheers to Miles Ichinose, Judy Soares, and Henry Oka who were honored by the Communities in Schools Hawaii Inc. Their efforts have contributed to making Waipahu and Hawaii a special place.

The honorees inspire me to continue to work hard for our community and state.

Sincerely,

2014 HAWAII MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY

The Hawaii Medal of Honor is given to express the deep appreciation and gratitude of the People of Hawaii to the loved ones of members of the military who sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation and its freedoms.

2014 Medal of Honor Recipients

U.S. Army Sergeant Tofiga J. Tautolo

U.S. Air Force Captain Reid K. Nishizuka

U.S. Army Sergeant Drew M. Scobie

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Balli



2014 HAWAII MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY



Representatives James Tokioka (Kauai) and Henry Aquino Medal of Honor Ceremony in the House of Representative Chamber

MARAUDER PRIDE CONGRATULATIONS PRINCIPAL HAYASHI



Representatives Henry Aquino, Roy Takumi, WHS students, teachers, Principal Hayashi, and Representatives Ty Cullen and Ryan Yamane



In March, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 207 to congratulate Waipahu High School Principal Keith Hayashi as the 2013 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award Recipient. Principal Hayashi has been instrumental in fostering innovative curriculum and programs for students, teachers and administrators.

U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION VISITS WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL

Waipahu High School in the news: U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited the campus to tour with students and teachers and praise the school and state for making notable strides under Hawaii's \$75 million federal Race to the Top grant. In a StarAdvertiser article by Nanea Kalani (4/1/14), Secretary Duncan remarked, "I don't know that we're in a high school. This is like graduate-level work. What an amazing environment to learn in. How fun would this be as a high school student, to be learning hands-on rather than sitting behind a desk taking notes?"

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS HAWAII INC. – KAULANA O WAIPAHU III

The Communities in Schools Hawaii Inc. Kaulana O Waipahu III recognized Miles Ichinose, Henry Oka and Judy Soares for their service to the community. Mr. Ichinose received the first Makana O Pu'uwai (Gift of the Heart) award for his demonstrated leadership qualities and 30 years of sustained commitment to the community. Mr. Henry Oka was honored as an Outstanding Community Volunteer for his selfless efforts, and care for his community. Honowai Elementary School teacher, Ms. Judy Soares, was honored as an Outstanding Educator for creating a stimulating learning environment. The awards ceremony was held on March 8th at the FilCom Center.



(L to R) Representative Aquino, Senator Michelle Kidani, Mr. & Mrs. Ichinose, and Senator Clarence Nishihara.



(L to R) Senator Michelle Kidani, Mr. & Mrs. Soares, Senator Clarence Nishihara, and Representative Aquino.



(L to R) Representative Aquino, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Mr. Henry Oka, and Senator Michelle Kidani.

KUMU REBECCA SANBORN NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION 2014 NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Kumu Rebecca Sanborn, Waipahu High School's Hawaiian language teacher, who was named the 2014 Native Hawaiian Educator of the Year by the Native Hawaiian Education Association. She is the heart and soul of Waipahu High School's Hawaiian Language Program and demonstrates the Native Hawaiian Education Association's core mission by advocating an educational philosophy based on a Native Hawaiian perspective of the 21st century. Kumu Rebecca Sanborn perpetuates "*I ulu no ka lala I ke kumu*", a Hawaiian proverb meaning "the branches grow because of the trunk" (without our ancestors we would not be here).



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities held its 14th annual "Day at the Capitol" on March 13. Students, teachers and chaperones from Waipahu High School's Best Buddies program visited with Maureen Andrade (far right), Office Manager for Rep. Henry Aquino.



WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL DRUG FREE WALKATHON



Rep. Aquino participated in Waipahu Elementary School's annual Drug Free Walkathon along with students, teachers and community leaders.

QUEENS MEDICAL CENTER-WEST O'AHU

MAY 20

marks the anticipated opening of the Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu. Renovation of the hospital is nearly complete. According to their website, www.queensmedicalcenter.org/westoahu, QMC – West O'ahu will provide the services essential to a community hospital, such as an emergency room, inpatient and outpatient surgery, imaging, cardiology, and specialty clinics.

Queens Medical Center-West O'ahu is located in the former Hawaii Medical Center West. For more info, please call the West O'ahu Infoline at 808-691-5048 or visit www.queensmedicalcenter.org/westoahu.

AUGUST AHRENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ROBOTIC DISPLAY



August Ahrens Elementary School 6th grade student Charize Balignasay demonstrated her robotics display for Coast Guard representative Mr. Bryan Dailey, teacher Mr. Mesina and Rep. Aquino.